FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 082 *29 April 1985*

ARGENTINA

Reportage on 'Defense of Democracy' Rally B 1
Rally Plans [BUENOS AIRES HERALD 25 Apr] B 1
'Impressive' Turnout Reported B 1
Alfonsin's Address B 2
Officials, Politicians React B 8
Plot To Assassinate Alfonsin, Martinez Reported B 10
Radio Belgrano Transmitter Damaged in Bomb Attack B 10

BRAZIL

Sarney To Make Slight 'Adjustments' [FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 24 Apr] D 1
Congress Discusses Length of Sarney's Term D 2
Sarney Terms as 'Coup' Any Attempt To Reduce Term D 2
Central Bank Chief's Resignation 'First Crisis' D 3

CHILE

Over 100 Opposition Leaders Arrested in Santiago E 1
Number of Arrested Climbs E 1
Interior Ministry Issues Statement E 1
French Citizens Among Detainees E 2
Opposition Students Celebrate Electoral Victory E 2

ECUADOR

Febres Cordero Repeals Electoral Court Decree G 1
Calls for Congress Sessions G 1
Government Protests Chilean Embassy Communique G 2
Briefs: New Conservative Party Leader; Favorable Trade Balance; Japanese Donation G 2

PERU

Group Claims Credit for Attack on Court Official J 1
Campesino Vigilantes Reportedly Massacre 20 J 1
Congress To Decide If Runoff Elections Necessary J 1
Percovich Disagrees With Garcia on IMF [EL COMERCIO 20 Apr] J 2
APRA's Garcia Comments on Cabinet, Foreign Debt [EL COMERCIO 22 Apr] J 2
Garcia Praises Barrantes' Withdrawal From Runoff J 2
United Left Conditions Support for APRA [EL COMERCIO 19 Apr] J 3
United Left Assumes Opposition Stance J 4
Commander Praelli Admits Intelligence Shortcomings J 6

URUGUAY

Sanguinetti Gives Debt Document to Group of 7 Envoys K 1
Executive Branch Orders Arrest of 6 Navy Officers K 1

PANAMA

Foreign Ministry Protests Nuclear Cargo Ship N 1
[CRITICA 25 Apr]
Legislature Advocates Dialogue in Nicaragua N 1
[EL SIGLO 23 Apr]
Paper Criticizes Public Workers Strikes N 2
[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 25 Apr]

CENTRAL AMERICA

BELIZE

Esquivel on Danger Posed by Marijuana Industry P 1

COSTA RICA

Two Americans Reportedly Detained by Police P 2
Officials Discuss Capture P 2
Government Supports U.S.-Nicaraguan Dialogue P 3

EL SALVADOR

Cabinet, Agency Heads Submit Resignations P 4
[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 26 Apr]
Presidency Minister Says 'No Dialogue' on 8 May P 4
Nicaraguan Embassy on U.S. Anti-Contadora Actions P 4
PDC Urges People To Cooperate With Government P 4
[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 24 Apr]
Guerrilla Leader on U.S. Presence in Country P 5

National Dialogue Held at Presidential House P 5
More on Meeting P 6
CUS Outlines Stand on National 'Crisis' P 6

HONDURAS

Nicaraguan Artillery Attacks Border Territory P 8
Armed Forces Officer Answers Suazo Letter P 8
Military Said To Prevent Congress Dissolution P 9
[EL HERALDO 24 Apr]
Christian Democrats' Stance on National 'Crisis' P 10
[TIEMPO 24 Apr]
Editorial Blames Suazo Cordova for 'Crisis' P 11
[TIEMPO 23 Apr]
President's Use of Official Funds Criticized P 12
[TIEMPO 25 Apr]

NICARAGUA

Ortega Begins Tour of USSR, Eastern Europe	P 14
Press Conference	P 14
Departs for Soviet Union	P 15
Soviet Reportage [cross-reference]	P 15
FSLN Calls Assembly To Discuss U.S. Aggression	P 16
Ortega on U.S. Congress Vote, Other Issues	P 16
Commentary Views House Rejection of Reagan Plan	P 19
FDN Reacts to U.S. House Vote on $14 Million [AFP]	P 19
European Parliament Member on Congressional Vote	P 20
European Parliament Member on Peace Talks, Aid	P 20
Culture Minister Granted Visa to U.S. After Delay	P 21
Comparison of D'Escoto on U.S. Congress Vote [BARRICADA 25 Apr]	P 21
Correction to D'Escoto on U.S. Congress Vote	P 22
Briefs: Ambassador to France	

CUBA

Nicaragua's Daniel Orgega Stops Over in Havana [EFE]	Q 1
Nicaragua Announces 100 Cuban Advisers to Leave	Q 1
Nicaraguan Minister of Transportation Pays Visit	Q 1
Raul Castro Meets Hungarian Militia Chief	Q 1
Panamanian Legislative Delegation Begins Visit	Q 2
Meets With Flavio Bravo	Q 2
ANPP Delegation Visits Italy 14-21 April	Q 2
'Our America' on U.S. Support for Guatemala	Q 2
Ministry Sends Letter to Perez de Cuellar on Namibia	Q 3

REPORTAGE ON 'DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY' RALLY

Rally Plans

PY252250 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 25 Apr 85 p 11

[Text] President Raul Alfonsin will not reveal the names of persons attempting to plot against the government because their contact with Armed Forces members were only "feelers" and not violations of the law in defense of democracy, Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli said yesterday. As Troccoli announced this decision to Justicialist legislators, preparations continued for tomorrow's rally in the Plaza de Mayo with Buenos Aires Provincial Governor Alejandro Armendariz giving government employees the day off to attend and two Peronist Youth factions saying that would back the demonstration to defend democracy.

Luis Sobrino Aranda, one of six Justicialist deputies meeting with Troccoli yesterday, said the latter had made it clear the president "could not and did not wish to reveal the names" of potential coup-plotters since the latter had not committed a crime. Alfonsin last Sunday denounced civilian "traitors" who had tried to "tempt" military officers into "destabilizing action."

Armendariz boosted the chances of a large turn out, telling provincial workers they will be allowed to leave work early to make it to Plaza de Mayo in time for the rally. The authorization is likely to mean a full day off for provincial government employees as their regular work hours are from 1 pm to 7 pm.

But other political sectors yesterday said they planned to boycott the rally. The 62 Organization, the political arm of the Peronist unions, in a statement refused to back the rally, calling it "opportunistic," and said the "seed of destabilization is found precisely in the impotence of the government in concentrating society's energy into a movement for change."

Movement Towards Socialism (MAS) leader Luis Zamora said his party would not show up at the rally because the "most important anti-coup march was staged earlier this week at the start of the juntas trial." He added, "It's shameful that the Radicals are trying to make us look like coup-mongers because we're not going" to the rally.

But Peronist Youth factions led by Dante Gullo and Pablo Unamuno said they would march "to defend democracy despite the divisive attitude of the government." On the other hand, the youth faction led by Patricia Bullrich said it would not attend, taking the same position voiced on Tuesday by the Rio Hondo branch of the Justicialist Party.

Intrasigent Party Deputy Raul Rabanaque Caballero yesterday reasoned that Intransigents will have no problem in rallying with the Radicals tomorrow. "We're not afraid this might be confused with giving the government unlimited support because our differences with government policies are clear-cut," he said.

'Impressive' Turnout Reported

PY270335 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0211 GMT 27 Apr 85

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 26 Apr (TELAM) -- An impressive crowd estimated as one of the largest ever to gather in the Plaza de Mayo responded to the call made by President Raul Alfonsin in defense of democracy and against any destabilizing efforts.

Before the president delivered an extemporaneous speech, a crowd made up of Radicals, Peronists, Intransigents, Communists, various factions of socialism, and members of the Trade Union of Mechanics, Maritime, Printing Shop Workers, and other groups, including human right organizations, as well as the public answered the call by filling the plaza and its adjacent streets.

Telegrams of support from the Tucuman and Santa Cruz Justicialist governors; the deputy secretary general of the Trade Union of Mechanics and Related Automotive Transportation Workers, Roque Di Carpio; and from Mexico from the vice president of the Socialist International, Anselmo Sule, were read over loudspeakers.

Radical Senators Antonio Napoli, head of the Radical bloc, Antonio Berhongaray, and Fernando de La Rua pointed out upon entering Government House at about 1900 that the presidential call had been answered.

Loudspeakers were used to advise those arriving in the Plaza to stop pushing the people in front of them, due to the large number who had fainted and being treated by first aid units.

At 2000, just before the appearance of President Alfonsin on the Government House balcony, an announcer read the document signed yesterday by representatives of 14 political parties in the White Hall of Government House "ratifying their irrevocable decision to unconditionally defend the republican, representative, and federal system established by the national Constitution. The crowd applauded passages of the document which concluded with a call for national unity around the great principles of social justice and freedom.

Just after the document was read the president delivered his speech which ended around 2100. At this time the crowd began to disperse, but some extremist groups left the plaza before the end of the speech, expressing their disagreement with the alleged softness of the president's speech.

During his extemporaneous and energetic 50-minute speech, the president said that as long as the people are willing to struggle for their rights no one will dare take them from them. Alfonsin spoke about the extremely difficult situation we are experiencing. He said that we have to answer the popular demands and grow at the same time. Compatriots, he said, this is called a war economy. I hope everyone will make the appropriate conclusions.

Alfonsin's Address

PY270020 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2315 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Address by President Raul Alfonsin from the balcony of Government House in Buenos Aires to special Plaza de Mayo rally called to defend democracy -- live]

[Text] Fellow countrymen: I thank you for your presence at this multitudinous rally. I know very well that you are not here to support my government. You are here to defend democracy. [applause] Because once again, as on many past occasions, there has been an attempt to attack not the government, but the Argentine people. [applause]

Your presence here is necessary because it shows the strength, not of the government, but of democracy; because it shows that this society is not indifferent, but that it is ready to struggle to preserve its rights.

This is what we have learned so quickly during recent events, the pressing need to defend, every day and in every place, the democracy we have attained, to defend it without indulging in the oversimplistic idea that one specific sector or institution is always to be blamed. As has been proven in this case, this is not true.

Those who lose with democracy are those who want to deprive us of our democracy. [applause] They are nothing but absurb minorities. [shouts: "Dear Raul, the people are with you"] They are unimportant minorities that, in an attempt to perform as political alchemists, think that they can build a sound picture by bringing together some isolated circumstances. They believe that they can count on the Armed Forces' support just because they have talked with some restless, retired officers about social outbursts. [shouts]

They believe they count on the labor movement's support just because they have talked with some misguided workers. And they believe the nation's political sector supports such ideas just because they have talked with some totally insignificant politicians. [shouts] There will be no room for them in the future [applause, chants, cheers]

I want to thank you for coming here on behalf of Argentina's future, on behalf of our children, because it is true, it is obvious, it is certain, that as long as the people are prepared to fight for their rights, no one will dare to take them away. [applause, chants: "The united people shall never be defeated"] That is true, the united people shall never be defeated. [cheers]

Together we must tell these alchemists of politics that if they want the power then they should clearly state their proposal to the people, run in the elections and win if they can, but not by betraying democracy. [applause, cheers]

And the united people also tell them that democracy is order, while dictatorship is chaos. The united people tell them that the worst irreparable misfortune, the worst anarchy, the worst chaos to us Argentines would be to lose our rights. [chants, cheers]

In sum, it is democracy and not this administration that has endowed Argentina with its new prestige in the world. The Argentine democracy has recovered this prestige for all of us and at all international forums our nation is hailed and respected.

We have defended this desire of all the Argentines at every international gathering we have participated in. We have sought the victory of our rights in the Malvinas issue at various international forums, and victory will be ours through peaceful negotiations, with the support and sponsorship of world democracies. [cheers] We have struggled for peace at all international forums; we have kept our statements free of ideological content, merely exercising our right to life so as to prevent a holocaust which may put an end to civilization. [shouts, cheers]

We have also upheld a staunch position toward the Central American issue on the basis of inalienable principles: nonintervention, self-determination, and territorial integrity. [shouts, chants] In Latin America we have encouraged the Cartagena Consensus, whose objective is not aggression, but a strong quest for the reaffirmation of the right which Latin American peoples have to enjoy social justice and development within the framework of a new international economic order.

We have made the world begin to understand the need for a political approach to the problem of the foreign debt, and at the meetings of the Cartagena group in Mar del Plata or Santo Domingo we have tried to make it understood that none of our countries can pay the debt by starving our peoples. [applause, cheers, chants]

We now have good relations with all the nations of the world. With the United States we historically had fluctuations, in which we sometimes followed it and at other times clashed with it. Now we have a mature relationship, aware that some of our interests are opposite or in conflict, and others coincide but in this relationship we gain strength as an independent country, independence which allows us to maintain unbiased relations with the socialist countries and with all the nations of the world because we want Argentina's banner of peace flying everywhere. [applause, cheers, chants]

Through democracy we have achieved respect for life, respect for essential human rights, and we have acted in keeping with the promises we made during the electoral campaign. We have put an end to torture in this country, once and for all, because a law has been passed punishing the torturers in the same way murderers are punished.

We have signed the San Jose Pact, we have recognized the Inter-American Human Rights Court, we have strengthened our policy toward every social activity in our country, and we have absolutely decided to continue this policy and to go through with the trials of those responsible for all we have had to endure under the so-called process. But we will do so in the framework of justice and with the help of honorable and courageous judges. [applause, cheers]

It is also thanks to democracy that we have been able to carry out an important task in the area of union organization. Since the beginning of our electoral campaign we have been saying that strong, solidary, participatory unions are absolutely necessary in a modern democracy, in a modern society. Although encountering some difficulties, we have managed to make steady progress in normalizing unions. And we have obtained extraordinary participation, since in some unions elections were attended by more than 90 percent of the membership. This has happened, I repeat, not because the government alone wanted it, but because the Argentine people have been willing to vote, to participate, and they will vote not only in general elections, but also in factories, in classrooms, everywhere. [applause]

But I will not review here tonight the actions of my administration, because you did not come here for that. Within a few days, as appropriate, we will report on our achievements to the National Congress. Here I want primarily to talk to you about the extreme difficulties we are going to experience.

We have inherited a difficult, an extremely difficult situation. We have inherited a faltering economy and a devastated country. This means that if we were going to perform an operation, we would also have to make the surgical instruments for the operation. It is absolutely necessary that we start by accepting this reality to understand that everyone must make an effort because we are all facing demands in three areas. First, there is a legitimate demand by popular sectors for just gains; secondly, we are also confronted with the need to establish order within the economy, and this will be achieved only through a very difficult adjustment and one that will require everyone to make an effort; and finally, there is a third demand that deals with the need for economic growth, because if recession persists too long, it will sow hopelessness among the people and jeopardize the ultimate goal of democratic fulfillment.

Thus, in this devastated country, with a faltering economy, we must answer popular demands and, at the same time, we must establish order within the economy and promote economic growth. This, fellow countrymen, is called a war economy and it will be a good idea for everyone to draw the appropriate conclusions. [applause]

Other countries have been in worse situations than we and on the debris of devastated cities they were able to build anew. Europe and Japan were destroyed 40 years ago and they are now among the wealthiest nations on earth. We can do the same to the extent that we remain united, to the extent that we strengthen democratic values, to the extent that we are absolutely convinced that we do not need anyone from outside to tell us what to do. [applause, cheers]

First we must undertake a revolution concerning expectations and hopes in Argentina. We must understand this, and to this end we are going to ask everyone to make efforts. What are these efforts and, consequently, what expectations can be satisfied and which cannot be satisifed? I want to tell you today, for instance, that this year we cannot expect a better standard of living precisely because of this serious situation. But I also want to tell you that the efforts required will be shared equitably and that, above all, those having more will be required to make more efforts. I also want to tell you that the efforts we are seeking will not be designed to benefit speculators, but to strengthen our chances of moving toward building the Argentina we all deserve. We are going to make this effort... [cheers, shouts]

It is a priority issue today to fight inflation, which foments dependence. No one has to come here and tell us what it means. With a debt or without a debt, with the IMF or without the IMF, it is absolutely necessary for us to fight inflation. Or is it perhaps necessary for us to be told that the hardest hit sectors by inflation are the workers and the have nots? Or is it perhaps necessary that we be told that inflation runs against investment? What we must all understand here is that absolutely everyone must make efforts: the government, businessmen, and the workers.

Businessmen will have to understand that the state cannot run the economy, and that the economy requires that they show resourcefulness and creativeness and that they take actions and risks. They must also understand this exceptional stage of our economy and manage all of its processes with austerity. And the government must do this, as well.

I assure you here in this historic plaza that we are going to act in a more demanding manner with the political officials of the government than with any other officials. If there are any officials who believe that they can enjoy power they should leave their posts. This is no time for negligence or weakness. [shouts, cheers]

We are going to work with greater efficiency, and if under these difficult circumstances we see that there are officials at any level who do not have the sufficient dedication to serve their people, we will ask them to leave their posts for we must be like soldiers ready for the battle we are going to wage. [shouts, cheers]

But we also have to understand that to fight inflation it is absolutely necessary to reduce the fiscal deficit, and this has two basic aspects. The first one is public expenditures. We are going to reduce public expenditures. [shouts: "Alfonsin, Alfonsin"] But everyone knows that this is not flexible. When we came to power, and I was totally responsible for this, we did not want a single dismissal to take place, or a single position to be eliminated, because we believed that it was necessary to put an end to public employment as a way of boosting the party in power. This is how we have performed, and although we know that now there are many jobs available, we are going to make it impossible for this to happen because owing to the current circumstances in the private sector we know that dismissals mean condemning our countrymen to the desperation of unemployment. [shouts, cheers]

But there are other ways. Weare going to continue working in all areas to reduce expenditures. We are at the same time going to freeze vacancies, and we are going to seek systems for voluntary retirement.

To put an end to excessive expenditures we also need to be more efficient in the management of state enterprises, and to privatize all the enterprises that need to be privatized. In this we are going to ask for the cooperation of the private sector. Regarding the enterprises which are not privatized, the public service enterprises, we are going to ask for the participation and cooperation of the consumers, either in neighborhood committees, in municipalities, or in cooperatives.

We are also going to work from the other end, the tax system. We have to increase taxes, gentlemen. The tax system was disrupted during the process of national reorganization, and it is insufficient to satisfy state requirements. In addition to the fact that the tax system has become inequitable, it is one of the most obsolete systems on earth. Indirect taxes based on popular consumption have been emphasized while direct taxes have not. An example of this is the income tax, which reached in 1984 only 0.6 percent of the GDP. The country that follows us in that percentage in relation to the GDP is Haiti with 1.37 percent, then Chile, and then Colombia with more than 3 percent. Several Latin American countries, such as Mexico, for example, have almost 6 percent; Spain has a higher percentage; France, Turkey, and Japan, over 10 percent; the United States 15 percent; and Denmark 25 percent. In other words, the Argentine system has become gradually more ineffective, as I said before, and this is affecting the popular sectors.

We have already prepared and sent to the National Congress, under the difficult economic situation we are going through, our tax reform with the following purpose: first, to bring more equity to the system by reducing the indirect taxes; second, to help sustain the state expenditures and reduce the public deficit; and third, to find ways to simplify taxes and to overcome tax evasion. We are soon also going to ask for greater contributions from those who have more, and we are going to submit a draft law by which we establish forced savings on income tax and net assets, that is, on those sectors with better possibilities to assist us in overcoming the difficult situation we are going through. [shouts, cheers]

It has also been necessary to carry out a financial reform which is being fully implemented with the purpose of preventing speculation, to clarify the system, and to give to the Central Bank the possibility to guide the credit and monetary system with responsibility, aimed at providing working capital to the productive sectors and to put an end as soon as possible to the speculation which is jeopardizing the work of the Argentine people. [shouts, cheers]

This effort will serve to promote our growth. Argentina should no longer be a mere supplier of agricultural products and buyer of foreign goods. We must use our forces to promote our exports. To attain this goal, we must meet three basic requirements. First, the public sector must display the proper attitude. We already have the exports law and we are designing the necessary mechanism to embark on bold policies. But this is not enough. We cannot calmly stay home waiting for eventual buyers. It is essential that we go out to advertise our products. In this regard, we have decided to put our entire foreign affairs infrastructure at the service of boosting Argentine exports.

However, not even this is enough. It is essential to orgainze the productive sector. Therefore, an accord is necessary between the public and the productive sectors to find the proper answer to the growing demands that we expect from abroad. This way we will overcome this situation faster than the pessimists could believe possible. We will find the way to move forward with our industiral production. We will get the most out of our installed capacity, and we will demand investments from within and without, because it is essential to work continuously in order to overcome stagnation, backwardness, and poverty.

We will work to reactivate the industrial sector. And we will do it in several ways, taking into account that we have very good prospects for selling our agricultural products and machinery in Latin America and in the rest of the world.

We will also ask agricultural producers to make the same effort we are demanding from other sectors. For a long time now we have said the we must do away with the absurd idea that the development of agrarian resources is linked with a traditional class. The old ranches are being turned into factories. Therefore, we are determined to provide the necessary technological assistance in all sectors, either the industrial or the agricultural and livestock production sectors, because we also want to provide state-of-the-art technology to all sectors that we can reach.

We will go ahead with our herbicide plan. We will go ahead with the National Institute of Agricultural-Livestock Technology work. We will go ahead with the development of the economic infrastructure for the agricultural and the transportation sectorand for the port system. We will also go ahead with all the reasonable policies in this area.

Withholdings no longer apply for meat. Even reimbursements have been approved. We will lower withholdings as much as possible. We cannot overcome a crisis originated abroad overnight. It costs the EEC approximately $2.5 billion to $3 billion to produce one ton of beef; nevertheless, they are winning the bids by $1 billion. The EEC and United States' subsidy policies have caused international grain prices to drop by approximately 20 to 30 percent. The amount of these subsidies is so large that for some years now they have been costing $35 billion per year.

Therefore, we cannot solve our problems overnight, but I am sure that we can give support in an earnest and substantial manner for the defense of legitimate interests with corresponding credits. With the support of credits, which we hope will be used in a productive manner, we will gradually pull the neglected agricultural and livestock sectors out of the situation they are in and will also satisfy the requests of the most humble producers. We are also going to try to simplify the tax system for the agricultural and livestock sector. We are going to try to do this by reducing the real estate tax as well as withholdings.

In the energy field we are also convinced that Argentina is getting ready to take a very important step forward. We have one of the best balanced energy pictures in the world. Gas consumption is fundamental and during 1984 we have been able to export a total of $354 million of fuel oil. We are going to increase oil exploitation. We have more than 150 areas to offer to the national private sector and to other companies of the world with the purpose of increasing the country's resources for energy development, convinced that we are serving our own convictions, our own historical stance, and the inalienable interests of the Argentine nation. [applause, shouts]

However, it is obvious that all these measures will not yield immediate results. We will not be immediately successful in our struggle to curb inflation; we will not immediately see the results of the investments we demand. However, that which is happening in other parts of the Third World must not happen here. Latin America and the underdeveloped world as a whole are the victims of the cruelty of the international economic system and of universal injustice. Fstrangement and hunger menace our nations.

However, this will not happen in Argentina. It cannot happen, and will not happen here, not only because the government has said so, but because democracy will not allow it. Democracy means voting, but it also means being able to eat. [applause, cheers]

We cannot overcome poverty overnight. As I said earlier, and I repeat it here now, every man or woman merits from that society into which he was born or where he lives the capability to secure food, health, and education for his children. And we will provide this.

While these other measures are yielding tangible results, we have started the National Food Program, which provides supplemental food to nearly 5 million Argentines. This has also allowed us to deal with education and health problems and above all, has allowed us to confirm the courage of the more destitute men and women of Argentina. They are setting an example for other sectors as to how one must work to overcome misfortune. They are giving an example of what community effort and solidarity mean. They are giving an example of democratic behavior.

We have also made a tremendous effort in the education sector so that no one will be left out of secondary schools and universities. We are implementing our task of giving each citizen the possibility of providing education to his children, thus responding to this social demand. [applause, shouts]

In the health sector, we are going to set up a health insurance plan. We are already organizing it. This does not involve just a money problem, despite what most people believe. It involves a lot more. It involves organizing and adequately managing the expenditures we are already making. It takes a democratically organized society to achieve this.

All together, we are also going to achieve this in such a way that the government's involvement may not be interpreted as statism or arbitrariness, that the workers may not mistake their participation through trade union social welfare institutions for any form of fiefdom, and that the necessary participation of the private sector may not result in mercantilism or anarchy. Through a joint effort by all sectors and with practically the same level of expenditures we are making today, we will be able to provide health services to all Argentines, without making distinctions between sons and stepsons. [applause, shouts]

All this can be achieved thanks to democracy, through the people's participation, through freedom, through the responsibility shown by our people, who have said yes to freedom, yes to democracy, and for once and for all, no to political violence of any type, from any source. [applause, shouts]

You, friends, have come here for the sake of harmonious coexistence, not to create confusion through violence. For our part, you can rest assured that we have not taken the reins of this government to let it become a replacement for one military regime and an anticedent for another, since if that were the case, we would be the frustrated ones now. [applause, cheers]

Let us strengthen democracy in Argentina with your help, with the help of those who believe in peace, with the help of those who believe in public morality, and with the help of those who abhor violence as a means to seize power, regardless of its form. [applause, shouts]

Officials, Politicians React

PY272231 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0235 GMT 27 Apr 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Apr (NA) -- In referring to the speech on the Argentine socioeconomic situation made tonight by President Raul Alfonsin, Vice President Victor Martinez said that it was "clear and courageous", while Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli said that it was "a great message in defense of the democratic institutions."

Justicialist Deputy Norberto Imbelloni commented that "Alfonsin's statements are rather belated. I remember that during his electoral campaign he said that he was going to open the factories fast, but it is obvious that he was not aware of the real situation." He added that the speech "contained nothing new."

In a sarcastic tone, Imbelloni said: "I congratulate the president for the allies he has, such as communism, socialism, the Intransigent Party, and the leftist groups, because he really encourages them and they, in turn, give him their support."

Jesus Rodriguez, president of the Chamber of Deputies Budget and Finance Commission and leader of the Radical Youth, said that "this rally proves that the mobilization of the people in defense of the system can achieve its stability and safeguard its accomplishments." Rodriguez also said that "the state of mobilization should continue to safeguard the progress that has been made and to consolidate the achievements."

Carlos Auyero, member of the Christian Democratic Humanism and Liberation Faction, said that we "are pleased with this sign of coexistence, although we believe that the president avoided mentioning some important subjects, such as the punishment of those responsible for repression." He added that "despite that and despite some sectarian attitudes of the government and of some members of the opposition, we consider the general tone of the speech positive."

Liberal Deputy Carlos Balestra from Corrientes Province said that government "is trying to deceive the Argentine people; therefore, it manipulates the media with the purpose of distracting the public from the serious problems that affect the country." Balestra stated that the president "uses national public transportation to mobilize the people to Plaza de Mayo while telling the National Congress to conduct itself with republican austerity," and "he denounces alleged military plots and then refused to disclose the names of the plotters." The liberal leader added that "while the former commanders are being subjected to a spectacular public trial, tight discretion and secrecy is maintained regarding the terrorists." The president says we are in a war economy, but he forgets that the government has been in power for the past 16 months, and he makes a series of announcements regarding economic and financial reforms when there are still too many public servants being moved around with the government institutions."

Federal Party President Francisco Manrique, however, believes that "Alfonsin tackled the economic problem, which is going to be difficult to try to recover headfirst, but everything indicates that even with this crude political start it will be possible [passage indistinct]." Manrique said that "the rostrum and method chosen by the president may be questionable, but it must be admitted that Alfonsin utilized the right moment to address the country in a simple manner, with realism and courage."

Enrique Inda, secretary general of the Authentic Socialist Party, asserted that "this magnificient multisectorial gathering for the defense of democracy marks the beginning of a promising phase in the Argentine political life." He also said that the president's speech "had a strong democratic spirit, viewed the socioeconomic situation with realism, and revealed a firm determination to succeed."

Vice President Victor Martinez said that the presidential speech was "clear and courageous" and added that Alfonsin clearly explained to the people" that the government is doing to serve, not a political party nor a sector, but democracy."

Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli said that it "was a great message in defense of the democratic institutions, but at the same time a message of great content because of the policies that were outlined regarding the difficulties in our paths to overcome these difficulties."

Troccoli added that "there is a nexus between the president's leadership and the people's understanding which allows the definite banishment of all those tricks played by the minority groups."

Jorge Bergstein, press secretary of the Communist Party, asserted that the "massive attendance and the presence of the majority of popular parties has clearly proven the Argentine peoples' desire to defend democracy and confront the coup attempts." At the same time Bergstein questioned the second half of the speech which referred to the economic situation and pointed out that one cannot continue to request the people to make sacrifices if one does not decidedly confront the IMF.

Peronist leader Carlos Grosso said that "most of those of us who were there felt we were a bit out of place as Alfonsin read his speech because Radicals as well as non-Radicals had decided to make a public appearance in defense of democracy." Grosso went on to say that "since it was the president himself who started to change the purpose of the rally, the members of non-Radical parties gradually left because we had already expressed our democratic spirit and we would much rather wait until 1 May to listen to a presidential speech." He ended by stating that "this is a very difficult plaza to use and the Radicals, probably trying to imitate Peron, found they were acting like Galtieri" and asserted that this is what happened tonight "because the purpose of the mobilization was distorted."

PLOT TO ASSASSINATE ALFONSIN, MARTINEZ REPORTED

PY262025 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2017 GMT 27 Apr 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Apr (NA) -- According to a report released today by newsman Bernardo Neustadt, a group of unidentified individuals conspired to murder President Raul Alfonsin and Vice President Victor Martinez to create a power vacuum so that, according to the law, the presidency would go to Edison Otero, the Senate's provisional president, to form a coalition government. In his program "New Day", broadcast by Radio Mitre, Neustadt attributed the origin of the report to "people close to the president." Neustadt, in declarations later made to the newspaper LA GACETA, said that "as a result of this plan the president was advised to wear bulletproof vests and to reinforce his guard at the Olivos residence." The journalist said "this happened last week when we were in the midst of the coup rumors" and that he learned about the report "on the morning of 21 April." However, Neustadt released the report only today, the day Alfonsin called for demonstration in defense of democracy.

RADIO BELGRANO TRANSMITTER DAMAGED IN BOMB ATTACK

PY291228 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1001 GMT 29 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 29 Apr (NA) -- The transmission plant of Radio Belgrano was partially destroyed as a result of a terrorist attack which took place during the predawn hours this morning. The attack was carried out by several unknown individuals who overwhelmed the guardsman and placed three bombs which went off successively. The bombs caused a fire but no casualties. The attack took place at 0240 and forced the radio station to stop broadcasting a program called "Quotes and [word indistinct] of the Stars."

For some time now, the staff of Radio Belgrano has been the target of reiterated criticisms from center-right Argentine political groups, and its members have reported that they have been receiving threats.

SARNEY EXPECTED TO MAKE SLIGHT 'ADJUSTMENTS'

PY261340 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Apr 85 p 12

[Text] President Jose Sarney, who turns 55 today, will wait until the end of the official 8-day mourning period declared on Tancredo Neves' death to effectively begin his government term.

Journalist Fernando Cesar Mesquita, president Sarney's spokesman, does not yet know whether the government's initial action will be a solemn cabinet meeting to announce the emergency plan, now renamed priority target program, formulated by Planning Minister Joao Sayad and already approved by Sarney. However, Mesquita stressed that at the end of the mourning period there will be measures that will "personalize" the government succeeding the never-installed government of Tancredo Neves.

This personalization, along with the priority target program, will inevitably involve "adjustments," as the spokesman put it, that will bring slight changes to the complex structure upon which Tancredo Neves built his cabinet. During the first stage, these "adjustments" should be minimal. They will affect only the members of Tancredo's "intimate circle." However, Finance Minister Francisco Dornelles, the late president's nephew, will keep his position.

Industry and Commerce Minister Roberto Gusmao believes that the "personalization" of the Sarney government should begin with more radical changes, such as the replacement of Civilian Household Chief Jose Hugo Castello Branco. Sao Paulo Governor Franco Montoro, apparently fearing that this replacement may involve the appointment of former Governor Roberto Abreu Sodre to the civilian cabinet, fervently defends the position that what Tancredo did, including the painstakingly assembled cabinet, should remain untouched. Whenever Sarney visits Sao Paulo, he uses the office of Abreu Sodre, a close, friend, as if it were his own.

The 23 April holiday has not paralyzed contacts in Brasilia, despite the fact that the city was quite empty as countless lawmakers and politicians traveled to Belo Horizonte. All of them should attend today's funeral in Sao Joao del Rei. After all, before the end of the mourning period it will be necessary to choose the names for the federal administration positions which are still vacant or which are held by temporarily appointed officials.

There is a consensus among the politicians: Now that Tancredo has died, the Sarney government must start moving. But the new president's freedom of action is restricted by political considerations and by barriers of feelings. An obvious restriction is that the president should maintain the Democratic Alliance intact; that is, the "personalization" of his government must not jeopardize the alliance. This will preserve even the Post of Science and Technology Minister Renato Archer, closely linked to Ulysses Guimaraes and Sarney's political adversary in Maranhao. The ministers who were appointed on the basis of political agreements should also retain their posts.

This will also guarantee the posts assigned to the Libaral Front Party. In principle, the military is untouchable.

This shows that Sarney has little chance of "personalizing" his government, at least in the beginning. At best, he may introduce changes in the civilian household, in the team of special presidential advisers, and in the Interior Ministry. And he may also appoint the permanent governor of the Federal District.

CONGRESS DISCUSSES LENGTH OF SARNEY'S TERM

PY262021 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1555 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Speaking in defense of the democratic regime and institutional order, we call reporter Luis Carlos Gertel in Brasilia at 1313.

[Live report by journalist Luis Gertel] Good afternoon, Ferreira Martins. The sun is shining in the nation's capital. Today's congressional session continued discussing the length of President Jose Sarney's term in the Planalto Palace While the Social Democratic Party [PDS] maintains its position that the term should not be longer than 4 years and that this change be considered by the constituent assembly, the Democratic Workers Party [PDT] of Leonel Brizola is negotiating the possibility that the Interparty Commission should establish direct elections for next year. Some congressmen, in today's session, criticized the rumors reported by a Rio de Janeiro daily that Minister Aureliano Chaves would be suporting the position to hold direct elections immediately. The rumors denied by Aureliano Chaves yesterday afternoon were considered by congressmen as provocative and intended to destablize the Jose Sarney government, the government of the Democratic Alliance. On the other hand, Deputy Raul Ferrez of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB] from Bahia suggested that President Jose Sarney call a referendum on the length of his office, affirming that his party would most likely support the idea. Still, according to the deputy, the referendum would pave the way for a constituent assembly, which is a national consensus. [end report]

Five days after the death of Tancredo Neves and after vows and commitments by his graveside, there exists, the mediocrity of the men who are still alive.

SARNEY TERMS AS 'COUP' ANY ATTEMPT TO REDUCE TERM

PY282305 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1451 GMT 28 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Brasilia, 28 Apr (EFE) -- President Jose Sarney has stated that he will consider as a coup any movement which, outside the constitutuent assembly to be elected in November 1986, tries to reduce the length of his presidential term. This statement was released to the media today by Fernando Cesar Mesquita, Sarney's press secretary. According to Sarney, only the future constituent assembly, free and soverign, can decide on this matter which, as soon as President-elect Tancredo Neves was buried, the politicians began to discuss publicly. Sarney stated that the controversy which began a few days ago on the possibility of reducing his term in office, in addition to the disputes over political posts and vacancies, neither scare nor annoy us. According to Mesquita, Sarney is taking this situation as a consequence of the first days of the so-called new Republic without its leader, Tancredo Neves, who was a key figure to reconciliate all forces in the new democratization process of Brazil.

CENTRAL BANK CHIEF'S RESIGNATION 'FIRST CRISIS'

PY290151 Paris AFP in Spanish 1722 GMT 27 Apr 85

[Text] Brasilia, 27 Apr (AFP) -- The new Republic of Brazil has just suffered its first crisis, in the decisionmaking sector of the country's finances, with the resignation last night of Sergio de Freitas, foreign relations director of the Central Bank, over important disagreements.

De Freitas' resignation, only 42 days after his designation, has been accepted by current President Jose Sarney. In fact, his resignation constitutes a desired dismissal by Finance Minister Francisco Neves Dornelles, a nephew of the late President Neves, according to the Brazilian press.

Formerly vice president of the private bank Itau, the Central Bank director was immediately replaced by Eduardo de Freitas, chief of the Central Bank's International Operations Department.

Observers have widely commented on the existence of disagreements between Sergio de Freitas and those responsible for the management of Brazilian finances.

In fact, the recently dismissed director participated in the Committee for Government Program [COPAG] designated by Neves in January 1985, which issued a document proposing the capitalization of the interests of the Brazilian foreign debt, the largest world debt totaling approximately $102 billion.

However, at the IDB meeting in Vienna on 26 March in his first speech since the government assumed power, Sergio de Freitas made what was considered a particularly harsh statement.

On that occasion, he stated that the improvement in Brazil's foreign accounts -- the trade balance registered a surplus of $12.8 billion in 1984 -- was achieved through an economic and social recession and higher inflation, implicitly referring to the IMF recommendations.

Sergio de Freitas also stressed the imbalance between the U.S. budget and its monetary policy, arguing that countries linked to Washington are forced to pay part of that account.

According to the influential newspaper FOLHA DE SAO PAULO (moderate left), international bankers reacted to his speech with displeasure and extended their dissatisfaction to the Brazilian Government.

Sergio de Freitas' resignation occurs at a crucial moment for the country, since negotiations with the IMF over the foreign debt will resume in Washington on 10 May, with Francisco Dornelles heading the Brazilian delegation.

OVER 100 OPPOSITION LEADERS ARRESTED IN SANTIAGO

PY270358 Paris AFP in Spanish 0248 GMT 27 Apr 85

[Text] Santiago, 26 Apr (AFP) -- Over 100 opposition political leaders, most of them members of the outlawed Chilean Socialist Party, were arrested tonight by Carabineros personnel as they were celebrating the 52d anniversary of their party. Political sources have told AFP that the police surrounded the place where the meeting was being held and arrested all of those in attendance, including Christian Democratic Party leaders Patricio Aylwin and Jorge Lavandero and some Chilean Socialist leaders.

Number of Arrested Climbs

PY271536 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1419 GMT 27 Apr 85

[Text] Santiago, 27 Apr (EFE) -- A total of 264 leaders and members of opposition political parties were arrested at 2200 on Friday, 26 April. The third Carabineros station confirmed this report for EFE today. They were arrested for violating State Security Law 12927.

According to the newspaper ULTIMAS NOTICIAS, those arrested were holding a political meeting at the headquarters of the Chilean Electric Company, Ltd. The newspaper added that those arrested include moderate Socialist leaders Luis Maria and Manuel Mandujano. It also mentioned former Christian Democratic Senator Jorge Lavandero.

The people arrested at dawn today were being taken to the first Carabineros station. The Carabineros have stated that this morning the government secretariat will release a detailed account of the arrests.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 1506 GMT on 27 April reports that the number of arrested persons totals 380.]

Interior Ministry Issues Statement

PY271938 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Apr 85

[Text] A total of 264 persons were arrested during an unauthorized political meeting in which groups that have been declared illegal were taking part. This information was released by the Interior Ministry. The announcement stated that the arrests were made at 480 Sotomayor Street, in Santiago, at 2130 last night. According to the Interior Ministry, actions aimed at disrupting public order on 1 May were being planned at the meeting.

A total of 264 persons were arrested, 56 of them women, 186 men, and 22 youths. The youths as well as an elderly person were released after their addresses were established. The remaining detainees have been taken to various police stations and have been placed at the disposal of the Interior Ministry, which will make a decision regarding their situation in the next 5 days.

It was also disclosed that numerous banners, pamphlets, armbands, printed material, and various types of literature of a subversive nature were seized at the site where the arrests were made.

French Citizens Among Detainees

PY290222 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2108 GMT 28 Apr 85

[Excerpts] Santiago, 28 Apr (EFE) -- Two French citizens are among the 239 [as received] people who have been arrested and placed at the disposal of the Chilean Interior Ministry for participating in an unauthorized meeting on Friday, 26 April. French Embassy adviser Jean-Pierre Lafosse today confirmed that the detainees are Michel Bourgignat and his wife and that their situation has been officially reported to the Foreign Ministry in Paris. Asked whether the French Embassy in Santiago has presented a protest note to the Chilean Government, the French Embassy adviser declined to answer, stating only that we are very much concerned about the detention of the two French citizens. He explained that Bourgignat is a professor at the Chilean-French Institute in Santiago, and added that on two occasions, today and yesterday, he visited the French couple, who are being held at a police station. He said that the French consul in Santiago accompanied him on both occasions.

These detentions were immediately repudiated by the Chilean Human Rights Commission, which released a statement saying that this represents an attack on the fundamental rights of man. The Human Rights Commission stated that as this was a peaceful meeting, whose participants were not involved in any violation of the law, the police intervention was not justified, much less the show of force displayed on the occasion. This government action, the statement added, represents a new violation of the rights of freedom of opinion and of meeting provided for in the 1980 Constitution, which this time has affected a considerable number of people.

OPPOSITION STUDENTS CELEBRATE ELECTORAL VICTORY

PY262135 Paris AFP in Spanish 0359 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Santiago, 25 Apr (AFP) -- Hundreds of Chilean students opposing the government of General Augusto Pinochet tonight celebrated with great joy, along with well-known political and union leaders, an important electoral victory in the Catholic University of Santiago.

Shouting slogans and singing, the youngsters celebrated the electoral victory over the government's representatives, while automobile horns were honked and traffic was interrupted on downtown Alameda Street, the main street in Santiago.

After 18 years the leadership of the Federation of Catholic Universtiy Students (FEUC) is in the hands of the opposition made up of Christian Democrats, Socialists, Communists, and Social Democrats who obtained over 65 percent of the votes for their young candidate Tomas Jocelyn Holt.

The university celebration, which was still going on after midnight, was attended by Gabriel Valdes, former foreign minister of the Christian Democratic Party; leaders of the opposition Democratic Alliance and of the leftist Popular Democratic Movement; and several union leaders.

Yesterday, in another university election held in the Catholic University of Valparaiso, the opposition list headed by student Pablo Andueza obtained 64 percent of the votes, defeating the government's list which got 22 percent.

Last year in the University of Chile, the most important university of the country, the election was won by Christian Democrat Yerko Ljubetich, who heads the Federation of Chilean Students.

FEBRES CORDERO REPEALS ELECTORAL COURT DECREE

PA260047 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero has repealed the decree designating two officials to represent the executive branch at the Supreme Electoral Court. Reliable sources have indicated that this decision in effect cancels a second decree designating a new alternate member; that decree was issued after (Soto Perez) declined his appointment.

Calls for Congress Sessions

PA261717 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Yesterday, President Leon Febres Cordero called for a period of special National Congress sessions as of next Monday so that Congress may conclude all unfinished business for the last Congress sessions called on 16 December 1984. The president also abolished the executive decrees appointing the president's delegates and alternates to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal.

Justifying the call for a new term of special sessions, the president said that the special sessions called last 16 December concluded on 7 March, without discussing all issues included on the agenda. He pointed out the president of the Congress should have adopted the necessary mechanisms for concluding all business on the agenda.

The agenda for the forthcoming special Congress sessions is as follows: freezing medicine prices, a draft on free medicines, a low-cost housing project, discussion of reforms on the monetary system, amendments to the political Constitution, a draft on illegal enrichment, a draft on the judiciary branch's functions, the appointment of alternate members to the Tribunal of Constitutional Guarantees, the appointment of delegates to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, the appointment of an attorney general, and the appointment of the superintendent of banks.

The president's decision to call for new special Congress sessions endorses everything done by the National Congress, Congress President Raul Baca Carbo said. Baca Carbo reiterated that Febres Cordero has admitted that Congress did a good job because in calling for new sessions, Febres Cordero accepts the Tribunal of Constitutional Guarantees' resolution that closing the special 7 March sessions was carried out according to Article 65 of the Constitution.

The Congress president said that the president of the Republic is obviously trying to prevent the legislature from carrying out its announced investigation of the violence prevailing in Guayaquil. Baca Carbo stressed that this time Congress will try to discuss all of issues on the agenda and then carry out investigations, without the president having any justification for telling the people that the Congress' actions are illegal.

Government Minister Luis Robles Plaza announced that the president's decision to call for a new period of special Congress sessions rescinds the executive decree that appointed delegates to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal.

[Begin Robles recording] This special period of sessions has been called for 1600 next Monday. Frankly speaking, the reason for calling this new period of sessions is as follows: The government hopes the National Congress will resume its sessions by continuing to discuss the agenda for the special period of sessions that was suspended. It is noteworthy to point out that the previous session was suspended, but the suspension was declared constitutional by the Tribunal of Constitutional Guarantees. This was done in order to abide by Article 65 of the national Constitution; that is, the national economic emergency salary decree.

The president believes that a special session could not be interrupted, but the Tribunal of Constitutional Guarantees stated that this is acceptable according to the Constitution. Inasmuch as there are so many important issue pending, I want to explain something. The call for this new period of sessions is exactly the same as Congress President Raul Baca Carbo's call for the previous special period. Therefore, this was done to complete all unfinished business which worried Congress itself. I also want to explain that the president has simultaneously issued a decree abolishing the decree appointing the delegates to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and this is one of the topics included in the call. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS CHILEAN EMBASSY COMMONIQUE

PA261822 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] It was learned from unofficial sources that Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Edgar Teran has sent a note to the Chilean ambassador to Ecuador demanding respect for the Ecuadoran Government institutions and expressing our government's stand on a Chilean Embassy communique. A communique was released on 16 April to the media saying that in view of a National Congress note signed by Dr Carlos Feraud Blaum, the Chilean Embassy was expressing to the Ecuadoran people its categorical and formal rejection of the note, which it considers an insult to the Chilean president and government. It also regretted that an institution of the Ecuadoran state would flagrantly meddle in the domestic affairs of another state by making such statements.

The president of the Ecuadoran Congress, Raul Baca Carbo, had also rejected the above mentioned communique, adding that Congress had every right to make use of freedom of expression and voice its stand on the murder of labor leaders and intellectuals in Chile. According to the same sources, the Congress president was officially notified of the Foreign Ministry's protests.

BRIEFS

NEW CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADER -- A press bulletin signed by Colonel Rafael Armijor Valdivieso, in his position as national director of the Conservative Party, has announced that the party's general assembly held in Quito this weekend appointed Armijos Valdivieso the highest authority of the party. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 8 Apr 85 PA]

FAVORABLE TRADE BALANCE -- Foreign Trade operations during the first quarter of 1985 registered a favorable balance of $302.7 million, due to an increase in exports and decrease in imports. According to the Central Bank statistics, the figures registered during the first 3 months of this year, surpass the figures registered during the same period in 1984 by $122.9 million. This year's trade balance is marked by a 11-percent increase in exports and a 16 percent decrease in imports. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 21 Apr 85 PA]

JAPANESE DONATION -- Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Edgar Teran Teran has received from Hajime Nishimiya, Japanese ambassador to Ecuador, a $30,000-donation from the Japanese Government to help restore areas damaged by fire on Isabela Island in the Ecuadoran Galapagos. [Excerpt] [Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Apr 85 PA]

GROUP CLAIMS CREDIT FOR ATTACK ON COURT OFFICIAL

PA281903 Paris AFP in Spanish 1821 GMT 28 Apr 85

[Text] Lima, 28 Apr (AFP) -- The self-styled "People's Guerrillas" ["Guerrillero del Pueblo"] claimed credit today for the extremist Shining Path-PC [expansion unknown] attack on the president of the National Electoral Court, Domingo Garcia Rada, 4 days ago, in an anonymous telephone call to AFP in Lima. A trembling voice added that the People's Guerrillas of the PC "carried out the attack on the president of the National Electoral Court, Garcia Rada, head of the electoral farce of the bourgoise government defender of Yankee imperialism."

"The attack was staged by the Lima branch of the People's Army," the caller added. In conclusion, the caller shouted long live "the armed struggle, to the Shining Path-PC and to president Gonzalo [head of Shining Path]". This is the first time that the Shining Path has used such methods to take credit for its terrorist actions.

CAMPESINO VIGILANTES REPORTEDLY MASSACRE 20

PY262112 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1807 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Ayacucho (Peru), 26 Apr (EFE) -- Twenty persons, who lived near the town of Monterrico, were tortured and their throats were slit between 4 and 11 April by members of the so-called campesino vigilantes who oppose the Shining Path organization. One of the persons who miraculously escaped the massacre, Zenobio Vega, the owner of the La Gaviota mine, today reported it to Ayacucho prosecutor Juan Cravero Tirado. According to the account given by Zenobio Vega, the 20 persons, 16 men and four women, were intercepted by members of the campesino vigilantes who charged them with being members of the Shining Path organization.

The campesino vigilantes raped the women and, after torturing their victims, bagan to cut their throats. The massacre lasted until 11 April, and the victims were forced to walk completely naked after they were stripped of their clothes and money. Thus far, the authorities have not reacted to the denunciation made by Zenobio Vega.

CONGRESS TO DECIDE IF RUNOFF ELECTIONS NECESSARY

PY271444 Lima Televisora Lima in Spanish 0430 GMT 27 Apr 85

[Interview granted by Prime Minister Luis Percovich Roca to an unidentified reporter on 26 April in Lima -- recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, I would like to know if American Revolutionary Popular Alliance [APRA] candidate Alan Garcia will have to stand alone in the runoff elections in order to comply to the letter of the Constitution even though Dr Barrantes Lingan has withdrawn?

[Percovich] When the elections were held on 14 April and a number of comments began to appear [words indistinct], according to the Constitution, the second round should be held, but if a legal way is found to avoid that second round, it would be most advisable for the country to follow it. We are now waiting for the constitutional interpretation that Congress will make on the draft law which will be jointly presented by several parties in order to solve this situation. In any case, it is up to Congress to make a decision on the matter.

PERCOVICH DISAGREE WITH GARCIA ON IMF

PY262310 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 20 Apr 85

[Excerpt] Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Luis Percovich Roca said yesterday that the government openly disagrees with the position expressed by the Aprista Party of Peru through its presidential candidate, and virtual future president, with regard to Alan Garcia's statement promising a rupture with the IMF.

In this regard Percovich said that, as pointed out by the economy minister who is the spokesman of the government's economic policies, a rupture with the IMF, although it has happened and does not completely obstruct the economic development of a country under certain circumstances, would make unavailable many credits necessary for development, and would prevent the signing of new agreements and refinancing.

He added: "The IMF acts as an organization to report on the economic, and financial situation of every country, and its possibility of fulfilling its commitments or signing new ones, therefore to do without it would mean living outside of the reality of the current world. It should not be forgotten that 106 countries, including the Eastern countries, maintain relations with the IMF.

APRA'S GARCIA COMMENTS ON CABINET, FOREIGN DEBT

PY261442 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 22 Apr 85 p A 4

[Excerpt] Alan Garcia has virtually denied all the reports on the possible makeup of his future cabinet. Repeating statements he has made recently, Garcia stated that "it is too early to make any plans in that regard."

Referring to the foreign debt, Garcia stated that "we are not refusing to pay it. We want to pay it, but under such terms that the situation of our people is not further aggravated. I am saying this with the legitmacy that was bestowed upon me by my fellow citizens on 14 April."

"Our first debt is with the poor, and we want to talk, once we are officially installed, with the U.S. and the French Governments, among others, to let them know that we intend to pay the debt, but not by sacrificing the people," Garcia stated. He then regretted the fact that a sector of the world press has turned some of his previous statements on the payment of Peru's foreign debt and other issues related to it into a threat to break away from the IMF.

He expressed the belief that the governors of those countries (creditors) will understand our stand. "Nevertheless," Garcia emphasized, "before speaking I await my government's official proclamation."

GARCIA PRAISES BARRANTES' WITHDRAWAL FROM RUNOFF

PY261502 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Excerpts] Alfonso Barrantes Lingan, the presidential candidate for the United Left [IU], who came in second in the general elections on Sunday, 14 April, has decided not to participate of the second round of elections to compete against Alan Garcia Perez, the presidential candidate of the APRA, who won the elections.

According to the results of a poll organized at Peruana de Opinion Publica between 17 and 19 April to learn the voter's choice between Alan Garcia and Alfonso Barrantes, Alan Garcia would have obtained 82 percent and Alfonso Barrantes only 18 percent of the votes in a second round. In referring to Alfonso Barrantes' decision to withdraw from the runoff, APRA candidate Alan Garcia tonight made the following comments:

[Begin Garcia recording] I have brought good news. I have just spoken to Garcia Rada's son, and he has told me that his father is responding favorably to treatment and that it is hoped that the president of the National Electoral Court will recover splendidly. The country has also just learned that the IU has decided to acknowledge the results of the 14 April elections.

As I stated then, I want to reiterate to the whole country now that APRA will abide by the Constitution and the law so that the peoples' decision, expressed on 14 April, will not be questioned and so that it will be definite. In the midst of the dramatic situation of violence and crisis that the country is experiencing, the people massively voted for a change. In these elections, APRA obtained 55 percent of the valid votes; this is without taking into account the void and blank votes that are being counted.

We can announce that so far APRA has obtained over 3.5 million votes, whereas our strongest opponent has obtained 1.6 million.

The IU's decision was based on the reality of the situation. This decision enhances the position of Alfonso Barrantes, because it means that he places the nation's interests before selfish partisan interests. It also means that the IU does not disregard the 55-percent majority APRA has obtained so far by resorting to the unconstitutional excuse of the void and blank votes.

This is a moment of national responsibility in which no matter what the decision of the Electoral Court may be, I once again call for the unity of all Peruvians, for the unity of all political parties for the benefit of the national and democratic objectives. I appeal for a unity free of secretarianism, arrogance, and spite that will allow all Peruvian citizens to overcome the very serious moment we are experiencing.

No clouds should be cast over the hopes that arose on Sunday, 14 April, with the decision of the Peruvian people, and less still should be ignored. Therefore, in view of the IU's gesture and decision, I must state that it is APRA's and its candidate's determination to abide by the Constitution and to respect the decision of the National Electoral Court, or the corresponding legal decision. Should it be necessary, we will agree to a second round of elections. We will agree to it if the Constitution and the Electoral Court determine it is necessary to ratify the great popular decision of 14 April. [end recording]

UNITED LEFT CONDITIONS SUPPORT FOR APRA

PY261438 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 19 Apr 85 p A 4

[Text] Marxism-Leninism, in the form of the United Left [IU], has conditioned its support for APRA during the 1985-90 term on four basic issues. These conditions are: creation of a special sanctions court, a regional civilian government in the emergency zone, a policy of economic subsidies, and a moratorium on the foreign debt.

This was stated by Deputy Javier Diez Canseco in comments he made to the press at the international airport. He added: Otherwise, the leftists will be outright opponents.

Diez Canseco stated that the special court will be established to try all those officials of the current government who have embezzled public funds and are guilty of administrative wrongdoing.

The economic program should include a number of subsidies to lower the prices on popular staples, support domestic industry, and defend our foreign markets. He added that the IU is asking for a unilateral amnesty for prisoners and people being harassed for their ideologies and beliefs.

Diez Canseco stated that the IU agrees with holding a runoff election, because this is mandated by law. He recalled that this law was approved by a constituent assembly in which APRA and the Popular Christian Party voted.

However, Enrique Bernales Ballesteros, an IU representative and a member of the Senate Constitutional Commission, advocates a constitutional amendment because a runoff election "is alien to our tradition and unnecessary from a constitutional viewpoint."

Bernales Ballesteros stated that he has always opposed the runoff system, and expressed his joy at the suggestion by APRA Senator Luis A. Sanchez to amend the Constitution.

UNITED LEFT ASSUMES OPPOSITION STANCE

PY260305 Lima Radioprogramas del Peru Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Statement released by United Left [IU] presidential candidate Alfonso Barrantes Lingan at IU headquarters in Lima -- live]

[Text] We want to make two announcements: The first one deals with the position the IU has assumed in relation to the new government.

The people have elected the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance [APRA] for the government, but have also elected the IU as the democratic and popular opposition. Our task, therefore, will be to watch the actions of the APRA government. We will support those positions that serve national interests, but we will question antidemocratic actions, those actions that might be detrimental to the national interests, those actions that might be show acquiescence to corruption, those designed to maintain a centralized government, failure to respect human rights, and every action designed to promote conciliation with foreign and domestic enemies of the workers, peasants, employees, the unemployed, artists, technicians, professionals, independent workers, national businessmen, in sum, of all the people.

With their votes, the people have entrusted the APRA with the task of leading the next government. In the same election, they have charged the IU with the responsibility of leading the opposition, as custodians charged with defending their interests.

During the electoral campaign, we said that we were looking for fighters, not voters. Therefore, we can now announce that the election is over, but the struggle continues. With greater force and intensity we will continue to carry on our struggle against imperialism, terrorism, and those who are starving the people.

Therefore, we want to announce to the people that the IU accepts their order and mandate and declares that, effective immediately, it is assuming the role of a democratic opposition force that will check the actions of the future APRA government.

IU congressmen will begin to draft the opposition bills that will be confronted in public debates with those proposed by the APRA.

Based on the commission that prepared the IU government plan, today we appointed an advisory committee for the IU president to check closely the actions of the new government, notably of each ministry and government organization. An IU team will check the actions of every APRA ministry. Each team will be ready to give its cooperation if this would be in the national interest, but it will also be ready to check without any kind of hesitation or weakness the government's actions in every sector.

We have proposed a government program based on the organizations of the people. From this new opposition we will continue to base our actions on the prolific force of the conscientious and organized masses.

Therefore our policy will not be, under any circumstances, a policy of making deals with the government. We accept the mandate of the people to carry out a constructive opposition to assure all workers that their unions will be protected from any attempt to create parallel government unions or the influence of thugs; to assure peasants that their gains will be defended, and that their organizations will have all the political support of the United Left; to assure teachers and public employees that they can count on us to prevent the risk of professional merits from being replaced by people with party affiliation; to assure national businessmen that they will not be put aside to benefit the transnational corporations; to assure youth and students that their schools, universities, and their future will be defended by us in the fact of any attempt of imposition, and in the face of any threat to their autonomy. Finally, we promise the entire country to carry out an all-out defense of democratic rights before a one party government which has our support, but which also has the overall responsibility for what it does or for what it does not do.

The IU from now on assumes the task of opposition, and watchdog not only in Congress, and the municipalities, but also in the social organizations, and in the streets. At the same time we know that the main responsibility of a democratic, patriotic, and popular opposition, as the one we represent by the mandate of the people, aims at putting an end as soon as possible to the current policies, and to prevent the outgoing government from taking advantage of the last moments to leave us, the elected government and opposition, with our hands tied.

The tasks now are doubled. On one side the task is to obstruct those government's objectives, and on the other side to put an end to uncertainty by showing that we put the interests of the country and the future of the people above all. Without discarding the interests of the country, and without avoiding our historic responsibility, we announce that the National Executive Committee this afternoon approved a decision declining the participation of the presidential ticket of the IU in the second round of elections.

We believe that such a decision will help to overcome the legal, and political uncertainties. By withdrawing from the second round we can proclaim that the country already has a new government, but at the same time it also has a new opposition. I call on the militants, and supporters of the United Left to persist in the organizational tasks as a means to guarantee the continuity of united efforts, and in the combative efficiency of the service of the nation.

May the IU committees multiple, may the 2 million people who gave us their generous support join all the committees, that a powerful revolutionary instrument may emerge to fulfill not only the tasks of the opposition entrusted to us by the people, but to fulfill the historic task of transforming Peru. Thank you very much. [applause]

COMMANDER PRAELLI ADMITS INTELLIGENCE SHORTCOMINGS

PY261625 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Excerpt] The chief of the Armed Forces Joint Staff, General Cesar Enrico Praelli, has admitted the existence of shortcomings within the intelligence services. He also said that he, personally, does not believe that the attack against Domingo Garcia Rada was perpetrated by members of the Shining Path or the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] There has been talk that the Shining Path has started to withdraw, but that does not seem to be the case.

[Praelli] I think that on one occasion I said that after the storm, calm prevails; and after calm, comes the storm. Shortly after the elections were held, high-tension pylons were blown up and now we have this new attack, which means that they have not or are not withdrawing.

[Reporter] What is the problem then, General?

[Praelli] I believe that the problem lies within the police as well as the Armed Forces intelligence services. As I have said, the Shining Path is a group that hits and runs. I think there is more than one subversive group. We have the Tupac Amaru group and it seems, and this is a very personal opinion, that yesterday's attack on the president of the National Electoral Court was not perpetrated by the Shining Path or by the Tupac Amaru because the attackers did not carry it out with precision. They fired shots in all directions, without any precision. The members of the Shining Path as well as those of the Tupac Amaru are very accurate. [end recording]

General Praelli made these comments at the end of a meeting with Alan Garcia, the winner of the first electoral round, at the latter's residence in the Miraflores neighborhood.

Enrico Praelli and three Armed Forces commanders went to congratulate Alan Gracia on the results of the 14 April elections.

SANGUINETTI GIVES DEBT DOCUMENT TO GROUP OF 7 ENVOYS

PY271242 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Apr 85

[Text] The president of the Republic a few hours ago held an important meeting with staff members and representatives of the embassies of the industrialized countries, the Group of 7, to whom he handed a document outlining the Cartagena Consensus stand on the foreign debt of the countries making up the consensus.

The meeting, attended by the U.S., British, FRG, Italian, French, Japanese and Candian ambassadors, was held on the second floor of Government House.

The Uruguayan president said that the foreign debt issue is global in nature and that it should be debated at the highest political level, not in order to politicize it, but rather to debate it within the general framework of development, he said. Thus, the consideration of problems from a political viewpoint may give rise to decisions that can improve the international situation and, therefore, the conditions of the adjustment that is under way, so that we can attain our development and honor our obligations, the Uruguayan president stated.

President Julio Sanguinetti stressed the significance of the debt issue and of economic growth for the new democracies, which are being pressured by the difficulties they inherited and by the legitimate aspirations of their people, who are demanding just solutions in the wake of the substantial deterioration of their living standards.

The Uruguayan president pointed out that the attainment of development is vital for the consolidation of the new democracies.

We attained our democracies, Sanguinetti said, after costly processes of change, with the effort of all the people, and with the support of friendly countries.

In the final part of his speech to the diplomats, the Uruguayan president said that we now want to see this moral support translated into an inescapable internal effort. However, it is paramount that in the current international situation, the conditions for the repayment of our obligations allow us to grow in order to strengthen and consolidate our democratic institutions, he concluded.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH ORDERS ARREST OF 6 NAVY OFFICERS

PY261300 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0048 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Montevideo, 24 Apr (EFE) -- Sources close to the government led by President Julio Maria Sanguinetti today told EFE that six Uruguayan Navy officers are under disciplinary arrest by orders of the executive branch.

The arrested officers are Captains Jacinto Aviles and Jorge Nader, Commanders Jorge Jaunsolo and Francisco de Castro, and Lieutenant Commanders Cesar Artigue and Hector Gonzalez.

These arrests of Navy officers today follow the one ordered a month ago of Army Colonel Juan Pomoli, an active duty officer, who was formerly national director of public relations in the de facto government and one of the most trusted aides of the last military president, Lieutenant General Gregorio Alvarez.

According to tonight's reports, these arrests are due to the public statements of the officers, who commented on the recent congressional investigations into the mismanagement of Navy funds under the command of Vice Admiral Hugo Leon Marquez.

The arrested Navy officers recently retired, but played significant roles during the military regime.

Aviles was the roving captain who made investments in dollars, using Navy funds, in banks located in Washington and the Bahamas under the orders of then-Navy Commander in Chief Marquez.

In comments to a newspaper in Montevideo, Captain Aviles yesterday admitted the transfer of funds abroad, outside administrative regulations, worth nearly $2 million. He stated that the transfers were made directly so that the president and the other branches, the Army and the Air Force, would not learn about the existence of the funds.

On the contrary, the other officers today sent a letter to newspapers in Montevideo stating that in July 1980 they denounced the issue investigated by the Senate, which forced them into compulsory retirement.

Nader, the first to sign the letter, was one of the hardliners in the military regime and always had problems within his branch owing to his faithfullness to the civil-military process since the 1973 coup d'etat.

Nader was the officer who led the uprising against the Navy leadership, which on 9 February 1973 sought to defend the democratic system and opposed the uprising made by the Army and the Air Force on that day.

The Sanguinetti government today ordered the arrest of all the officers for violating the regulation that forbids them to speak publicly on military or political problems without the prior approval of the high command, even though they are retired.

Aviles is serving a strict 15-day detention, while the other officers are serving a 10-day term.

FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTESTS NUCLEAR CARGO SHIP

PA261439 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 25 Apr 85 p 2

[By Carlos J Nunez L.]

[Text] The transit of nuclear cargo through the Panama Canal has become a challenge to the Panamanian Government, Foreign Minister Fernando Cardoze Fabrega said in a protest note sent to U.S. authorities who share the administration of the international waterway.

The reason for the Foreign Ministry's protest is that on 19 April a ship coming from Europe went through the Panamanian Canal with radioactive cargo destined for somewhere in the western United States. The ship went through the locks at night and during its passage, it encountered at least six other ships. The Panamanian Government insists that this type of cargo is dangerous not just for the future of the canal, but for the safety of the canal workers and neighboring communities.

Panama has made a formal request to the British Government to make ships with that type of cargo use a route different from the Panama Canal.

One of the most sensitive issues to be raised at the next meeting of the canal's Board of Directors, which will be held in Washington, D.C., will be the one dealing with ships carrying highly dangerous nuclear cargo.

LEGISLATURE ADVOCATES DIALOGUE IN NICARAGUA

PA261639 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 23 Apr 85 pp 1, 22

[Resolution approved by the Legislative Assembly in Panama City on 22 April]

[Text] The Panamanian Legislative Assembly, whereas:

1. Efforts are being made to restore peace in Central America, particularly in Nicaragua, with the mediation of the Catholic Church's Episcopal Conference.

2. The Central American countries, including Nicaragua, have agreed that domestic reconciliation is indispensable for the achievement of peace in the region.

3. The fratricidal war that is devastating Nicaragua finds Nicaraguans confronting each other in a bloody war of brothers against brothers, in which the bloodshed will leave a legacy of hate and thirst for revenge.

4. The Nicaraguan crisis will achieve a political solution only through genuine understanding among all Nicaraguans to end the civil war and lead to the reconciliation of the Nicaraguan family. An authentic dialogue and the reestablishment of a genuinely democratic regime are necessary.

Resolves:

1. To support the 21 objectives set forth by the Contadora Grpup to promote peace in the area.

2. To support the proposals for national reconciliation in Nicaragua.

3. To endorse the mediation of the Catholic Church's Episcopal Conference aimed at reestablishing democracy.

4. To point out that democracy is the path to peace.

5. To advocate a cease-fire between the warring parties in the Nicaraguan civil war and to encourage rival parties to seek solutions that will effectively advance progress in the country.

PAPER CRITICIZES PUBLIC WORKERS STRIKE

PA261946 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 25 Apr 85 p A 4

[Editorial: "The Frequent Strikes in State Public Services"]

[Text] We are firm supporters of the freedoms and rights that democracy establishes and that, in countries like ours, are embodied in articles in the Constitution to give the people a clear path of justice and order in their republican development.

However, since experience is the great teacher in life and each day brings new lessons that the people must understand and learn from, we believe that the frequent strikes in the area of public services seriously harm the citizens and the country's normal life. As a result of this, the holding of such strikes must be examined with patriotism, wisdom, and a social awareness so that they will not seriously harm the general well-being.

We are mainly speaking of the public services that the state provides and that are paid for with the money of taxpayers who pay their taxes so that those services will be properly provided. That is why the strikes in such institutions as the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification, the National Water and Sanitation Institute, the Sanitation Department, hospitals, pharmaceutical services, the railroad, elementary schools, secondary schools, and so on directly harm all homes and disrupt the country's tranquillity. They should be duly prevented and regulated.

We suppose that when the workers who work in those institutions decide to strike they do so to draw attention to their aspirations and demands and as a last recourse. However, even if that is so, the law should establish measures so that when strikes are held, the customers, that is, the citizens, will not be directly affected by those actions. This is even more serious when public health is involved since there are many sick people who, if not promptly given medical attention or medicine, will inevitably be in danger of dying.

That is why we believe that the national government has a role to play in this area after it undertakes the necessary investigations. In this way, the country would be provided with a legal instrument that prevents strikes and stoppages in state public services and, in the event they do occur, will establish special regulations that will prevent unfortunate consequences for the national community.

In the life of civilized countries and especially in democratic countries, order must be sought to lead a normal daily life. However, that order must naturally be backed by legal and practical foundations that will be respected by everyone. Strikes and work stoppages can be held but not to benefit a few and harm the majority. Instead, they must be held to achieve more justice and well-being for everyone.

BELIZE

ESQUIVEL ON DANGER POSED BY MARIJUANA INDUSTRY

FL261808 Bridgetown CANA in English 1803 GMT 26 Apr 85

[By Norris Hall]

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, April 26, CANA -- Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel said Thursday that the illegal drug trade posed a very serious threat to the security of Belize. We are convinced in the government that the Belizean public have not even the slightest idea of the magnitude of the marijuana problem in Belize and the danger it poses to our country, Esquivel told a news conference in Belize City. We must examine and face the fact the marijuana industry has become all powerful and poses a very real threat to the independence of this country -- a greater threat than the Guatemalan claim (to Belizean territory), which thankfully at this moment, at least, is not moving forward -- whereas the marijuana threat is in fact a very real (one) and (we fear an) imminent take over of our country.

Esquivel said Belizeans preferred to talk about American interference or American pressure in the fight against the drug trade. We need to examine our own country and see what are the dangers to this country regardless of what the Americans think or feel on this matter, he added. Belize is the largest exporter of marijuana to the United States and Washington has urged this country to crackdown on the trade. Home Affairs Minister Curl Thompson said this week that drug barons had put out a contract to get him following a recent pledge to arrest top figures involved in trafficking.

Esquivel indicated that although no time-table has been set by his government for the resumption of the aerial spraying of marijuana plantations recommended by the Americans, his government now appears in favour of resuming the use of paraquat to fight against the growing drug problem here. We are waiting for approval in the United States of the environmental impact statement which has already been produced and a copy of which I have seen. But it has not been formally presented in the United States. The study comments on the environmental repercussions of the use of various herbicides including paraquat, which appeared to be losing favour here because there was no antidote to its poison.

The study reportedly says that paraquat is a chemical which loses all of its effectiveness within seconds of reaching the soil and that it acts only on the leaves of weed-type plants. In the soil it is totally inactive, while in water it quickly becomes inactive, the report says. It adds that for an animal to be affected by paraquat it would have to receive a direct discharge of the spray. The report also said that with proper techniques the droplet size of the paraquat can be regulated so that it falls to the ground rapidly enough to reduce the drift factor which has been raised in debates on the use of paraquat.

Esquivel's United Party, when it was in opposition to the then People's United Party [PUP] administration, made a political issue of the use of paraquat forcing the PUP regime to discontinue the spraying in 1984 after it had destroyed 3,000 marijuana plantations using this method. On an average over the past three years some 30,000 litres of paraquat under the ICI [expansion unknown] label as gramozone were imported into Belize for use by farmers.

In response to a question on police statistics which indicate that the marijuana problem here is substantially linked to aliens, Esquivel revealed that the number of registered aliens now in the country stood at 47,000 or thirty percent of the country's population. Of this, more than 6,000 are Guatemalans. The number of illegal aliens here has not been ascertained but police believe the number is well in excess of 10,000 and that many of them are involved in the illegal cultivation of marijuana.

COSTA RICA

TWO AMERICANS REPORTEDLY DETAINED BY POLICE

PA260340 Paris AFP in Spanish 0229 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] San Jose, 25 Apr (AFP) -- Police sources have reported that at least five foreigners -- two Americans, two Britons, and one Frenchman -- were captured at an anti-Sandinist rebel camp dismantled by police in northern Costa Rica early Wednesday.

The Americans have been identified as Steven Carr, about 25, and Robert Thompson, 54. There were also two Britons in the group, Peter Gliebary, about 30, and John Davis, 25, as well as a Frenchman, Claude Chaffard, about 28. These names were provided by unofficial police sources.

Usually reliable sources have also indicated that the Americans had reportedly been in Grenada, but it was not said whether they are or were members of the U.S. Army. This could not be verified by official sources. A spokesman of the civilian military system organization from Alabama told news media in San Jose that the organization is linked to the five foreigners detained here and that the men were collaborators with the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, a counterrevolutionary organization.

Officials Discuss Capture

PA260449 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] During a raid yesterday, the rural police discovered 18 heavily armed men at a camp in Las Delicias de Pocosol. According to authorities, several foreigners, but no Costa Ricans, were detained. Regarding this, the deputy government minister [not further identified] said:

[Begin recording] [Deputy Government Minister] We are awaiting a final report in this matter. As I have said over the telephone, we carry out an investigation whenever we receive a plausible report from citizens.

In this particular case, we were able to confirm such a report. We found a group of people carrying out unauthorized activities. The small group of heavily armed men was found on a private farm [words indistinct].

[Reporter] What about reports that there are foreigners in that camp?

[Deputy Government Minister] It is absolutely true. This is what we were informed initially. But as I have told you, we receive 10 or 15 calls every day of persons making accusations. Some of these calls are serious and are investigated immediately, such as this one. Other calls are less serious or show signs of being less serious. In this case the accusations proved to be true.

[Reporter] Are there charges about the presence of other camps in the region?

[Deputy Government Minister] Not only in this region. Every day charges are filed from various parts of the country. We have to make an effort to be organized. Can you imagine rural guards going to all parts of the country at all times? Think of the fuel consumption, the food, traveling expenses, and the people involved. There are many people who are irresponsible and make trick calls just to cause a bother. We have punished some of these persons when we have discovered that their calls were hoaxes to have a good time at the expense of the rural guard or the government ministry.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] [end recording]

This radio station has determined that the police confiscated a large number of rockets, machine guns, grenades, grenade launchers, bazookas, rifles, and other weapons. Thos detained were turned over to the public prosecutor, Attorney General Dr Fernando Cruz told this radio station.

[Begin recording] [Cruz] Some of those detained are not Latin Americans. Apparently they are either American or British, but I am not sure. As far as I know, no Costa Ricans have been detained. The men who were detained carried weapons and explosives and apparently were captured in Costa Rican territory. An investigation has been ordered to determine the reasons for their arrest and their activities. They are likely to be tried.

[Reporter] How many have been detained? Are they [words indistinct]?

[Cruz] Ten of them [words indistinct] while one suffers from malaria, who will be sent to the hospital.

[Reporter] Did the men belong to a particular organization?

[Cruz] This has not been determined. We will know when the appropriate investigation is carried out. [end recording]

In addition, the judicial investigation agency has been questioning the detainees which apparently are 18 in number, including 11 Nicaraguans, 2 Britons, 3 Americans, and 2 Frenchmen. The only Spanish-speaking American has been taken to a hospital in San Jose because he is seriously ill from malaria. It is suspected that this group is financed by independent organizations and that the men are linked to anti-Sandinists who operate in Honduras.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS U.S.-NICARAGUAN DIALOGUE

PA261621 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Dr Carlos Jose Gutierrez said that Costa Rica maintains its stand in support of a Nicaraguan-U.S. dialogue. President Monge reiterated this stand to Juergen Warnke, FRG economic cooperation minister.

The foreign minister said that is the logical result of the Contadora Document of Objectives, which calls for internal dialogue and national reconciliation, that was signed 1 and 1/2 years ago.

Dr Gutierrez said that the same thing that applies to El Salvador also applies to Manzanillo. Therefore, he also supports establishment of talks between anti-Sandinist groups and the Nicaraguan Government.

Dr Carlos Jose Gutierrez said President Monge has signed a resolution granting political asylum to Nicaraguan Jose Manuel Urbina Lara. As soon as this document is reviewed by the Foreign Ministry's legal department, a cablegram will be sent to the Costa Rican ambassador in Bogota to instruct him to issue Urbina Lara a visa.

Dr Gutierrez said that the government will not assume the cost for Nicaraguan Urbina Lara's trip to Costa Rica; he will do that on his own or he may receive help from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

EL SALVADOR

CABINET, AGENCY HEADS SUBMIT RESIGNATIONS

PA261436 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 26 Apr 85 p 74

[Text] According to an official report, the members of the cabinet and the presidents of autonomous agencies submitted their resignations to President Jose Napoleon Duarte yesterday, and they will become effective on 1 June.

Duarte accepted the respective document and his decision to accept, revalidate, or reject these resignations will be announced on 1 June when the leader will commemorate his first anniversary in office. The reason for the resignations was to leave President Duarte free to choose his colleagues who will accompany him in the continuation of his constitutional term as leader of the nation. Official sources disclosed that this is a routine action in cases like this in which 60 deputies to the Legislative Assembly will be sworn in, 1 month after the local governments in 262 towns of the Republic have been installed. [sentence as published]

PRESIDENCY MINISTER SAYS 'NO DIALOGUE' ON 8 MAY

PA271955 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Apr 85

[Text] There will be no dialogue on 8 May, Salvadoran Presidency Minister Julio Adolfo Ray Prendes stated yesterday, despite reports to that effect released by various news media. Rey Prendes also reported that the government has accepted in El Salvador the Nicaraguans who arrived at Meanguera Island. They are in good condition and this is no longer a problem, he said.

NICARAGUAN EMBASSY ON U.S. ANTI-CONTADORA ACTIONS

PA261256 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] The Nicaraguan Embassy in San Salvador issued a lengthy communique accusing the CIA of promoting a boycott of the Contadora Group's negotiations and mediations. The document, issued by the Nicaraguan diplomatic delegation in this capital, states that the U.S. Government is trying to influence public opinion to succeed in attaining funds for the contras who work out of Honduras and Costa Rica. Finally, the document states that the U.S. Government is trying to detract from the credibility of Nicaragua's peace proposal.

PDC URGES PEOPLE TO COOPERATE WITH GOVERNMENT

PA251252 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 24 Apr 85 pp 2, 19

[Communique issued by the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] -- date not given]

[Text] To the Salvadoran people: The PDC and the first government elected by the people's sovereign will, maintain as a matter of principle that the effective and permanent participation of the nation's sectors is a fundamental and necessary factor for the country's development. That is why President Duarte, from the moment he was elected, submitted to the country an adequate mechanism for the integration and participation of the various sectors, whose common objectives are peace, democratization, social justice, and economic development. This mechanism or instrument is a social pact that becomes publicly effective according to national ideals, objectives, and goals.

After the recent elections, through which the Salvadorans expressed their confidence, faith, and support for the legitimate government, the PDC reiterates to the nation its policy of opening and understanding for those sectors and organizations that are willing to cooperate instead of obstructing; that are willing to participate instead of destroying; and that are willing to join the people in working for peace and democracy.

The PDC acts according to this plan and in the interest of the country. Therefore, any talk or dialogue will be held on the basis of principles and objectives, and not on the selfish basis of individual interest or government positions. The fatherland and the common welfare of the Salvadorans, who believe in respect for human beings and their dignity, come before individual ambition. Therefore, the main political problem does not consist of the PDC ignoring the country's minority political forces, but of the capacity and opportunity of these forces to join at this moment the tide of history in striving to fulfill the people's most heartfelt aspirations. It is within this framework that the Christian Democrats are willing to work with other forces capable of accepting the historical commitment to always act honestly on behalf of the Salvadoran people.

Therefore, we wish to reaffirm our position that we will not negotiate the people's will. We are opposed to that type of conduct as a matter of principle that overrides the ideological and political considerations of the other organizations.

To the Salvadoran people we report that we will respond to their support. We will make every effort and direct our will toward building together a new fatherland for the welfare of all the Salvadorans.

GUERRILLA LEADER ON U.S. PRESENCE IN COUNTRY

PA280424 Paris AFP in Spanish 0008 GMT 28 Apr 85

[Text] Madrid, 27 Apr (AFP) -- Hector Oquelli, member of the Political-Diplomatic Commission of the FMLN-FDR of El Salvador, denounced here today the growing U.S. presence in his country. Oquelli, who attended a meeting of the Socialist International in Brussels and met in Madrid with Foreign Ministry experts on Latin American affairs, affirmed that El Salvador has become a country that receives the third highest military aid in the world. He noted the "positive disposition" of the Salvadoran guerrillas to resume the dialogue with the government and confirmed that contact between the parties has not been interrupted at any time.

He voiced the opinion that the credibility of Napoleon Duarte's government has diminished much recently. He noted that the war continues and that despite the apparent calm, which can last for a certain period of time, it is very easy for war to break out again.

According to Oquelli, a climate of relative calm prevails in the captial, although in the countryside "the war is really noticeable."

GUATEMALA

NATIONAL DIALOGUE HELD AT PRESIDENTIAL HOUSE

PA261508 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 2350 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] The national dialogue that was held this morning at Presidential House has been suspended for about 10 days until participating sectors present solutions and analyses of the country's real economic and financial situation. The initial reports on this situation indicate that Guatemala is facing a critical fiscal deficit of more than 400 million quetzales that must be balanced in order not to further jeopardize our economy. The alarming statistics were disclosed by the finance minister and the president of the Bank of Guatemala, who expressed serious concern and nervousness.

The dialogue was attended by representatives of the government, politicians, private enterprises, workers, the news media, and university sectors. According to an analyst, the dialogue could in the short term find immediate solutions to the critical economic situation. The same source added that the government must be aware that to balance this huge deficit it must seek a formula to immediately obtain funds, decrease public expenditures, and completely eliminate unnecessary expenses, since this is one of the biggest drains of capital if there is no control over the use of this money. The source said that it is extremely important that the government not spend funds on public works that are not profitable.

The talks held today at Presidential House only served to provide detailed information on Guatemala's situation. Head of State General Oscar Mejia Victores set a 10-day period so that all of the participating sectors can present analyses and solutions for this situation. At the end of this period, the government may recall the sectors to proceed with the second part of the talks. According to some sectors, the talks should include other political and labor sectors so that the opinions of all sectors in the population will be considered.

More on Meeting

PA261514 Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa in Spanish 1916 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Excerpt] About 1 hour ago the meeting between representatives from different sectors in the country and ranking government officials led by Head of State General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores ended. The meeting began at 0930 at the Presidential House and ended a little before 1300. The discussion centered around general information provided by the finance minister and the president of the Bank of Guatemala regarding the country's economic problems. Special attention was given to the growing deficit in the national treasury; the problems in paying the foreign debt, which surpasses $2 billion; and the external problems, such as restrictions and reduced prices in the international market.

In conclusion, approximately 100 representatives at the Presidential House were informed of the immediate need to establish new taxes. This means that the government needs a greater income in order to deal with the critical situation that can no longer wait, and there is no other alternative but to establish new taxes. Also discussed was the immediate need to reduce public spending as much as possible.

It was agreed that within 10 days, rather than 8 as reported earlier, the representatives from the participating sectors will make suggestions and propose solutions fo the problems discussed during the approximately 3 and 1/2 hour session at the Presidential House. All of the sectors invited were present at the meeting: representatives from the private sector; cooperatives; the media; political parties -- the four known presidential candidates were present -- representatives from the universities; the San Carlos University and private universities; and from the labor union movement.

CUS OUTLINES STAND ON NATIONAL 'CRISIS'

PA261552 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Paid ad issued by the Confederation for Trade Union Unity, CUS, in Guatemala City on 24 April]

[Text] CUS states the following to the Guatemalan people: Exactly 4 months ago, on 7 January, CUS stated the need to begin a national dialogue to discuss the grave problems that prevail in our homeland, and to attain just solutions that would alleviate the crisis and allow us to develop the country. We have continuously reiterated our proposal, aware that the low-income sectors are the most affected by the crisis; this includes the employed and the unemployed.

However, our proposals were always disregarded, as it always happens in Guatemala. We presented the workers' proposals, but the private sector and the government were not interested because they were well-off and enjoying our national riches and the workers' efforts.

Now that the situation is on the verge of a crisis, because most of the Guatemalan people are living in poverty, the private sector has ascertained that the workers purchasing power is almost zero and is trying to save itself by exerting pressure on the government regarding possibilities for a national dialogue. Nevertheless, we want to continue being positive and we hope, as we have in the past, that the dialogue will not be another farce or an opportunity for the government and the private sector to mend their small differences and reach an agreement to continue impoverishing the Guatemalan people's situation.

Consequently, we wish to make a historical statement: CUS clearly states its view regarding what should be discussed and the possible results. We must bear in mind that we are afflicted by multiple problems and they should be immediately solved. These problems include unemployment, low salaries, the high cost of living, low prices for peasants' products, the lack of land for the peasants, the lack of union freedom, inefficient and poor enforcement of justice, administrative inefficiency, administrative corruption, administrative squandering, and violence of all kinds. These problems should be discussed and immediate solutions sought; each sector must solve certain specific problems and then solve the crisis in general.

In this regard, we request the central government to: a) adopt severe, efficient measures that completely eradicate corruption, inefficiency, and squandering in the public sector; b) adopt measures to prevent tax evasion and severely punish those responsible for tax evasion. In addition, it must adopt tax reforms that reduce indirect taxes to a minimum and compensate for this with direct taxes on riches; c) rationally use the government's resources to create jobs and improve the rural sector's living conditions; and d) enforce strict measures to dissolve armed groups and leave the National Police in charge of civilian security; eradicate violence in all of its forms so that the people no longer live in fear of vandalism, kidnappings, torture, and kidnappings.

The private sector is asked to: a) immediately lower all product prices at least to the levels of October 1984; b) accept its obligation to contribute to the improvement of the situation that prevails in the country, from which they extract the riches that allow them to live well; c) bring back to the country the millions of dollars that were taken abroad and invest them to create jobs; d) accept the fact that the labor movement is the product of a civilized world and that the workers have rights that cannot be violated; and e) prevent speculation and an artificial increase in prices.

The national news media is asked to: a) continue supporting the people by fully carrying out its duty to report the truth; b) create a national awareness by reporting every event in the country, regardless of the sector in which it took place; and c) help prevent any speculation with foreign exchange, funds, political events, and news reports.

The political parties are asked to: enforce a true internal democracy so that the people may hope to achieve a true democracy in the country.

We believe that the church and university, among other organizations that represent the people's will, are fulfilling their duty in a correct way and we are sure they will continue to do so. The workers have sacrificed themselves for centuries and if we must share this sacrifice with other sectors we will do so gladly, as long as this represents the possibility of achieving a better life.

Summarizing, we feel that this dialogue must establish the bases for a just, human society in the future without poverty, violence, or repression. For the workers' national unity!

[Signed] CUS

HONDURAS

NICARAGUAN ARTILLERY ATTACKS BORDER TERRITORY

PA242356 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0130 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Sandinist troops fired heavy artillery guns at our territory yesterday, Monday. This incident took place in La Vega, El Paraiso municipality, El Paraiso Department. The damage caused by this attack has yet to be determined. At least 300 grenades were fired at La Vega. This incident confirms the constant provocation from our neighbors along the border, which demands constant vigilance from our Armed Forces. The Foreign Relations Secretariat has a report of this armed attack against our country's sovereignty.

ARMED FORCES OFFICER ANSWERS SUAZO LETTER

PA250558 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Letter sent by Lieutenant Colonel Claudio A. Lainez Coello, secretary of the Armed Forces Supreme Council, to President Roberto Suazo Cordova; date not given]

[Text] Mr President: I refer to your letter of 19 April, in which you ask for a note to clarify the charges raised by Deputy Carlos Orbin Montoya through the national press. In my capacity as secretary of the Armed Forces Supreme Council, I very respectfully submit the following:

1. This office has not received any unlawful proposals from the president of the Republic, as hinted in the referent charge.

2. The Armed Forces constantly endeavor to maintain an unblemished image in the eyes of our people and the world and therefore criticize and condemn all unlawful actions or practices.

3. Upon faithfully performing their constitutional mission, and within the context of legal provisions in effect in our country, the Armed Forces limit themselves to arranging for lawful payments to be made for military materiel and equipment purchases abroad, payments on pending debts, scholarships, and other official obligations covered by vouchers which are in the hands of that state institution.

In every respect, the regretful charges to which you allude in your letter serve as a means to create further confusion at this difficult time and contribute to casting doubts on the line of abstention that has been adopted by the military in face of the sectarian political conflicts plaguing our Republic, sowing distrust about the honor of the Armed Forces Supreme Council and its members as well as about the ethical standards which the Honduran Armed Forces have patriotically adopted.

Based on the contents of your kind letter, I am taking due note of the fact that legal proceedings have been initiated to fix the respective responsibilities through an investigation into this regretful charge and for the plaintiff to submit the evidence on which he bases his accusation, should such evidence exist.

I reassert to Your Excellency that the secretariat of the Armed Forces Supreme Council has no knowledge of any attempts having been made at any time to promote before this office the continuation of the chief executive in his post beyond the term established by the Constitution and much less the imposition of a dictatorship of any kind.

Upon answering your letter I take this opportunity to reiterate to you my utmost respect for the presidency of the Republic as well as the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

Very truly yours,

[Signed] Lt Col Claudio A. Lainez Coello, Commanding Staff, Artillery, secretary of the Armed Forces Supreme Council

MILITARY SAID TO PREVENT CONGRESS DISSOLUTION

PA261504 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 24 Apr 85 p 2

[Text] Nationalist leader Mario Rivera Lopez said yesterday that last week the Armed Forces prevented the dissolution of Congress and the expulsion of several deputies from the country.

The well-known politician said that an order to that effect was issued by the executive branch but the action was not carried out because the Armed Forces assumed a calm and patriotic attitude toward the problem.

Rivera Lopez did not disclose the source of his information, but he said that he was among the deputies who were going to be expelled from the country, supposedly as a means to solve the crisis facing the state branches.

Rivera Lopez, former president of Congress, said that just like President Roberto Suazo Cordova was capable of ordering the expulsion of some deputies from the country, "the deputies are also capable of asking him to resign from the presidency, in order to solve the problem." Rivera Lopez considers that Suazo Cordova's government has been a failure and that history would not even bother to judge him, were it not for the many political mistakes he has made.

Regarding Suazo Cordova's response to the country's labor sector problem, Rivera Lopez said that it did not solve the crisis, it only made it worse. "The response was diplomatic for one of two reasons: Either the president and the workers have been play acting from the beginning or Suazo Cordova is acting as he pleases with social sectors," Rivera Lopez said.

Rivera Lopez, who is considered to be the real leader of the congressional opposition to the deputies loyal to President Suazo Cordova, believes that the President's repeated veto of bills discussed in Congress "does not mean that the democratic deputies have lost the war, because we are still fighting." In this respect, he said that Congress still has not made use of the alternatives it has to make its authority effective. He added that significant developments could take place during the next sessions of Congress, which will result in a final solution to the conflict between the state's branches.

The nationalist leader also announced that talks have been resumed with the various political groups that comprised the Democratic and Constitutionalist Opposition Coordinating Board, Codeco, in order to find a solution to the institutional problem. "Furthermore," he added, "for the first time since Codeco was formed, we are talking about the possibility of submitting to the Honduran people a new electoral alternative, so that we can successfully confront the government."

Finally, Rivera Lopez said that other political figures are planning to join Codeco, and there is a possibility that Jose Azcona Hoyo, probable presidential candidate of the Liberal Party, will join this group in the next few days.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS' STANCE ON NATIONAL 'CRISIS'

PA261919 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Apr 85 p 2

[Statement issued by the National Directorate of the Honduran Christian Democratic Party, PDCH, in Tegucigalpa on 23 April]

[Text] The PDCH hereby ratifies to the leaders of public and private institutions, the general public, and the international community, its stance on the current national crisis:

1. The PDCH is not responsible for the crisis. Christian Democrats have always denounced the fact that the current socioeconomic model has been exhausted and the traditional political leaders have been unable to find alternative paths. Our actions in the midst of the National Congress and in other realms where duty calls us to action are the expression of a democratic strategy congruent with the people's aspirations.

2. The crisis currently manifests itself in the utilization by two factions of the Rodista Liberal Movement of the branches of government to resolve an internal party dispute. The ruling faction of the Liberal Party, though aware of the overall crisis Honduran society is facing, has been unwilling to promote a nationwide political program, opening the doors to sectarian interests, presidential intrigues, and improvisation, to the extent that all sectors of Honduran society have become involved in what is now a national crisis that may have grave international repercussions.

3. The crisis can be characterized as follows: 3.1) It distorts the image of Honduras and weakens its status in the international community to negotiate problems as important as the demarcation of borders, signing of mutual assistance treaties, the foreign debt, international credit, and the peaceful coexistence with neighboring countries. 3.2) It reduces the people's confidence in democracy as a system of government and in the parties as institutions that sustain the democratization process. It encourages those who advocate the creation of a corporate state in defiance of politics and politicians, both seen as undesirables. 3.3) It fosters a climate of general pessimism and frustration and paves the way for deeper poverty and violent solutions.

4. The PDCH has carefully read the proposal by workers and peasant organizations on solving the crisis and considers that it is an expression of goodwill that should be taken into consideration as an alternative that may be matched with and supplement the various possible solutions. We regret that this proposal was manipulated by one of the conflicting parties to legitimize its position and reject the negotiation that all the people want. We wish to recall the proposal recently issued by our party and the Innovation and Unity Party (PINU) at the National Congress, which was rejected by the very people who should have supported it to benefit Honduras.

5. Congruent with its political tradition, the PDCH issues a call to come to an urgently needed great political national agreement, as the patriotic and most adequate means for resolving the current phase of the crisis at its deepest roots. We believe that the Catholic Church possesses the moral authority to garner action to benefit the common good and that its leaders can call on political, social, economic, and military institutions, so that the content and methodology of the agreement may be reached by consensus.

Finally, the PDCH hereby makes a commitment to decisively contribute to the search of the best solution for our country. We especially invite those who are aware of the risks the country is taking to unite with us to define a political program that while allowing us to reorganize the country, will give all sectors of Honduran society the possibility of participating responsibly and with solidarity.

[Signed] Efrain Diaz Arrivillaga, president; Ignacio Osorio Nunez, secretary

EDITORIAL BLAMES SUAZO CORDOVA FOR 'CRISIS'

PA261346 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Apr 85 p 6

[Editorial: "The President's Reply Explains All Doubts"]

[Text] If there was any doubt that the stubborn attitude of President Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova led the country into an unprecedented institutional crisis, his reply given last Friday to the peasant and labor leaders who had presented him with an 11-point solution to the crisis definitely explains the situation.

The secretary general of the Confederation of Honduran Workers (CTH), Andres Victor Artiles, one of the signatories to the worker-peasant proposal which was achieved in coordination with a sector of the military hierarchy, has reacted immediately, evidently disappointed. "President Suazo Cordova's stand," the CTH president said, "allows us to point out that the labor movement is disappointed or that the plans to reach an agreement between the parties in conflict is very far away at this time."

Artiles revealed that the labor leaders had hoped the president would be impartial, in accordance with his position, and that "in some way he was going to accept the responsibility or blame for this crisis. However, judging from his reply he seems to be free of this problem and feels that the responsibility lies with the legislative branch."

"The CTH emphasizes that Dr Suazo Cordova's stand has always been a radical one, and he has always been against electoral laws. It is recalled that he once said: As soon as I receive the electoral law amendments, I will veto them. Regardless of what we did or said, his stand was a radical one. Therefore, what we are trying to do is to alleviate the situation. Let us hope we will achieve this later on with some measures."

The note from President Suazo Cordova to this group of representatives of the workers and peasants undoubtedly exploits the points that are in his favor and distorts those that are not. This strives to confuse public opinion with the addition of cynical demagoguery and does not present reponsible solutions.

Thus, not even the subservience in some parts of the worker-peasant proposal made enough of an impression on the government to encourage it to find an elegant solution to a problem seriously affecting the nation.

In the two basic points of the conflict -- the restructuring of the Supreme Court and the electoral law amendments which would allow for primary elections to choose the candidates -- President Suazo Cordova maintains his stand, simulating republican beliefs that he is far from practicing as far as respecting the independence of the powers of state and the worry over the proportion of representation, which, by the way, is not in danger.

Thus there is an impasse in obtaining the release from prison of the former supreme court president, Ramon Valladares Soto, and in revoking the order of arrest of justices that were elected and sworn in on 31 March. This leaves the former justices free to decide on their resignation in order to disguise the restructuring of the judicial branch.

Tht president should not give his opinion on this but he always does in order not to leave any doubts to this effect. He insists on interpreting the Constitution in his own way, which allowed him to order the police force to block the entry of the elected justices so they could not assume their posts.

President Suazo Cordova then says he abides by "what the Constitution says concerning the Supreme Court justices who were elected for a constitutional term, which the legislative branch has tried to violate in an action which, by itself, is a replacement of the legally established branches."

Concerning internal elections, President Suazo Cordova continues to veto democracy in Honduras. There is no way of making him change because this would mean the Honduran people would free themselves from the pressure groups. It would require something like a revolution to overthrow the tyranny and authoritarianism in solving our national problems and the establishment of the Honduran leadership, directly by the people. That attitude will not change, in spite of the fact that all sectors of the community, including the workers and peasants are demanding internal solutions. Just take a look at the stand of the Union Federation of Northern Workers of Honduras, which disavowed the CTH by publicly asking President Suazo Cordova to withdraw the veto on the electoral law amendment.

We also look at it from the point of view of the Coordinating Committee of People's Organizations, which groups most of the organized workers and peasants of the country.

Where will the president's stubborn attitude take us? It is difficult to say, but it will probably worsen the crisis, which will end up unleashing situations that had until now remained calm. At any rate, there is no doubt now where the main responsibility for this crisis falls.

PRESIDENT'S USE OF OFFICIAL FUNDS CRITICIZED

PA271606 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Apr 85 p 6

[Editorial: "The President's Generosity With the People's Money"]

[Text] President Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova will be remembered in history as a ruler generous toward some officers of the Honduran Armed Forces and civilians who have been loyal to him, even when this loyalty entailed shame.

To the surprise of Hondurans, the president has apparently been using money from the so-called "confidential fund" -- on which he does not have to report to the nation, despite the fact that this is people's money -- to generously reward certain members of the Armed Forces whom he sentimentally regards as his "comrades in arms." In this remarkable chapter of his public activities, the president has not allowed mere trifles to stop him when it comes to spending money. Through the chief of the presidential guard, we have learned of orders of payment for 650,000 lempiras, but the overall figure is undoubtedly much higher.

The inference is obvious because the president himself has said that "many of these orders were stolen from the Finance Secretariat by people who were identified and dismissed." However, that is not the problem, although this would create an enormous scandal in another country. "The fact that President Robert Suazo Cordova helps the officers and soldiers of the presidential honor guard cannot be considered a crime."

The president, who established a hard-working and honest government, also said that he has many friends in the Armed Froces. Now we understand why he boasts that the Armed Forces will be loyal to him at any time and under any circumstances.

The president's largesse with certain military officers naturally leads us to some serious thinking. First, he considers that the money is his and that he can do what he wants with it. Therefore, he says, he is acting in a more proper way than others who have put the money in their own pockets. However, as far as we know, no president, no matter how "democratic" he may be, has the right to spend the country's money as he wants, especially if it leaves behind the bitter taste of a transaction for power to tyrannize the country.

We also have another question: The confidential fund approved for the last president elected by the people was about half a million lempiras. We must now be talking about millions, many millions, since he can make the kind "gifts we recently found out about. The people have a right to know how much is approved for that fund and how it is spent.

What will countries that give us aid and donations think about our government, when it generously gives away money that is urgently needed for hospitals, medicine for the people, food for emaciated and miserable children, and, in sum, all the things necessary for a nation that has passed from poverty to misery in these last years?

The Honduran Armed Forces have their own budget, which is quite large. They also have social benefits that are far superior to those of common citizens, such as the Military Welfare Institute, which includes retirement benefits, a commissary where they pay lower prices that are tax exempt, a bank which works as a private bank, and many other benefits. However, the president, who feels he is part of the Armed Forces and wears a uniform even though it does not suit him, believes that this is not enough and asserts at the top of his lungs that if he had more money he would distribute it among some of his comrades in arms. Is this generosity, a sense of class, or political maneuvering?

The president does not bear in mind that Honduras is composed of civilians and military officers, and the civilians always pay most of the taxes to support the state. Therefore, the country's money should be spent with more responsibility and justice. Otherwise, given the current grave situation and the chronic fiscal deficit in our country, how we ever reduce the deficit if the president squanders our money, giving it to his opportunist friends?

Lastly, does this practice of "giving special rewards to several Armed Forces officers so they may cover personal and health expenses" benefit the Armed Forces? Could it not prove negative and harmful by creating mistrust, rifts, privileges, and doubts about these officers' loyalty to the nation and the Armed Forces itself? The case is serious, not to mention incredible. The president of the Republic must provide good explanations, not the foolish answers he has used to justify his conduct. In addition, the Armed Forces high command must also have a say in the matter, because the situation could provoke mistrust and even resentment among the citizenry, which feels downtrodden and insulted by the state that is supported with its own money, produced with sacrifice and hard work.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA BEGINS TOUR OF USSR, EASTERN EUROPE

Press Conference

PA270228 Managua International Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 27 Apr 85

[Press conference by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra with unidentified foreign and domestic reporters on 26 April at the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport in Managua -- recorded]

[Text] [Ortega] We are leaving now on a tour which will be short but intense. It will begin in the USSR. We are going to go through Cuba now. We are going to the USSR, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, the CSSR, Poland, and the GDR. Also, in May, Vice President Sergio Ramirez is going to Austria.

Our visit to socialist countries and Yugoslavia is in line with the efforts we have been making in the international arena on behalf of peace and also in economic and commercial aspects. In our meetings with heads of state and political leaders in Montevideo, Brazil, and Buenos Aires we have always discussed the peace and political problems in the Central American region, economic problems afffecting Latin America, particularly Nicaragua, which is suffering aggression by the United States, which is taking new economic actions against our country. We are going to the socialist countries and Yugoslavia to discuss international issues and the lines of cooperation we have been developing since the revolutionary victory in July 1979.

[Question] Commander, Mr Larry Speakes made statements this morning on behalf of President Ronald Reagan, saying that they will continue seeking alternatives against Nicaragua. Among these alternatives, there is a petition to the White House adviser on defense. [sentence as heard] He questions your trip to the USSR and said that for the time being there is no possibility of a meeting in Manzanillo, Mexico, between Nicaragua and the United States. Could you comment on this?

[Ortega] As we know very well, the U.S. Government continues a policy of aggression against our country. The fact that Congress has voted against this policy does not eliminate the possibility of the U.S. President doing many more things against Nicaragua. Therefore, when Mr Speakes talks about considering alternatives, it is not anything new. We would not be surprised if economic actions and even military or diplomatic actions are taken against Nicaragua, because that would be in line with the aggressive position assumed by the U.S. Government. We believe that this attitude will get us nowhere. It will only increase tension in the region, lead to more bleeding, and even threaten the lives of U.S. citizens in this type of adventure.

[Question] What type of discussion will you have with Fidel Castro [word indistinct]?

[Ortega] Every time we talk with Cuban President Fidel Castro we discuss regional problems, because Cuba is also concerned about regional problems. We also discuss cooperation between Cuba and Nicaragua. In addition to our current efforts, we must also bear in mind the boycott being inflicted on Nicaragua by the U.S. Government regarding an IDB loan of $58 million, which is affecting the Nicaraguan private sector, the state, and everybody else; the problems being withstood by Nicaragua regarding the supply of oil, due to the U.S. Government's pressures to cut off all types of supplies to our country; Nicaragua's financial problems meeting its obligations concerning the debt; and its bilateral relations.

To this we must add the economic costs incurred by the aggression, the material affects of the aggression. This explains our efforts.

[Question] What type of aid do you expect to get from the Soviet Union right now?

[Ortega] It is important to mention that the type of aid that Nicaragua expects... [rephrases] is already getting and expects from the socialist community countries and Yugoslavia is aid that will be destined to improve the Nicaraguan people's lives. This aid is not destined to sow death and terror or sacrifice the Nicaraguan people, like the aid demanded by the U.S. President from Congress, the aid compromised by the U.S. President through other indirect means, and the aid that the U.S. President will surely continue to negotiate through other means to finance this terrorist policy against Nicaragua. We insist that the most reasonable and appropriate thing to do is to create the necessary conditions to normalize life in Nicaragua. This must include cutting off all types of aid to the mercenary forces; stopping all the U.S. economic, political, and military aggressions against Nicaragua; and resuming the dialogue in Manzanillo to normalize our relations. Then the conditions will exist to normalize life in Nicaragua, to attain peace in Nicaragua even though we will continue to face a difficult situation in the economic sector.

[Question] In other words, none of these efforts will be of a military nature?

[Ortega] We are going to exert any type of effort needed on behalf of the Nicaraguan people.

[Question] Could you make a brief comment on the plot to assassinate leaders [words indistinct].

[Ortega] Well, we know that the CIA has prepared actions to assassinate all the Miskito leaders who have been participating in the dialogue with the Nicaraguan Government. [end recording]

Departs for Soviet Union

PA270306 Paris AFP in Spanish 0226 GMT 27 Apr 85

[Excerpts] Managua, 26 Apr (AFP) -- The president of Nicaragua left this afternoon for the Soviet Union and the socialist community in search of economic aid to counter the critical situation prevailing in this Central American nation.

Ortega left Managua at 1500 local time for a tour through Cuba, the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, the GDR and Romania.

Shortly before starting his trip Ortega said that his government will seek to counter, with the socialist countries' help, the economic boycott imposed by the Reagan administration on Nicaragua.

In addition, Ortega revealed that Vice President Sergio Ramirez will begin a tour through Austria and other West Europan nations on 22 May.

Soviet Reportage

For reportage on the visit to the Soviet Union by the delegation headed by President Daniel Ortega, including a report on the signing of an economic agreement establishing an intergovernmental commission on economic, trade, and scientific cooperation and a meeting with General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, see the Latin America & Caribbean section of the 29 April Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

FSLN CALLS ASSEMBLY TO DISCUSS U.S. AGGRESSION

PA291219 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1207 GMT 29 Apr 85

[Communique issued by the secretariat of the FSLN National Directorate in Managua on 29 April]

[Text] The secretariat of the FSLN National Directorate reports to Sandinist militants and the Nicaraguan people that a regular meeting of the Sandinist assembly will be held today, 29 April, to analyze and discuss FSLN actions at the present time when the fatherland is suffering a counterrevolutionary aggression supported, financed, and directed by the current U.S. Administration.

ORTEGA ON U.S. CONGRESS VOTE, OTHER ISSUES

PA262153 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1947 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] President Ortega issued some statements shortly after concluding his meeting with the bishops today. He said he held a frank, deep dialogue with the prelates in which he explained the national situation. The meeting was held behind closed doors and lasted 1 and 1/2 hours; the only bishop who did not attend was Msgr Schaeffer of Bluefields who went to the United States last week to visit his relatives.

Upon leaving the meeting, President Ortega said that the United States has not replied to the invitation to return to the Manzanillo talks and continue the dialogue that might avoid a war. He also asserted that he will leave for Moscow today and will use his new trip to Europe to visit not only the Soviet Union, but also other socialist countries.

[Begin recording] [Ortega] This was a private visit and we held a private talk. We wanted to meet with the Episcopal Conference members and we were able to speak frankly and to thoroughly discuss several topics. That is all I can tell you about the meeting.

[Question] I have a small question [words indistinct].

[Ortega] What?

[Question] Will the church serve as mediator?

[Ortega] No, we did not discuss that; we discussed other topics.

[Question] In addition to your visit to the Soviet Union, are you prepared to visit (?other countries)?

[Ortega] Well, this afternoon we will begin a tour through the Soviet Union and other countries in the socialist community, plus Yugoslavia with the aim of discussing topics of cooperation and analyzing the international political situation.

[Question] Was this discussed with the bishops?

[Ortega] What?

[Question] Was this discussed during the meeting?

[Ortega] Well, this involves the dialogue that the government has been carrying out with the church. On 24 December I met with Msgr Obando, then I met with the Episcopal Conference on 24 December 1984. Yesterday I congratulated Cardinal Miguel Obando and told him that we are proud of his appointments and that Nicaragua is proud to have a cardinal. Today, we only renewed the dialogue that we began on 24 December and discussed a series of topics.

[Question] What is your opinion of the U.S. Congress vote yesterday?

[Ortega] Well, we know that following the U.S. Congress vote regarding the $14 million... [rephrases] We insist that the U.S. people's will be represented in the Congress. The U.S. people want a peaceful solution to the problem; they want to solve these problems in a negotiated political way, not in the violent way that the U.S. administration has been imposing and is still trying to impose. A violent solution will eventually compromise the U.S. youths in a war against Nicaragua. As we have learned, the U.S. President and Secretary of State Shultz have been trying to put new pressures on the U.S. public and the Congress to see how they can formally reactivate that aid, because we know that they are maintaining the aid through other means. It is symptomatic that Enrique Bermudez, a colonel of the Somozist guard, has issued statements announcing a new offensive during the next few days. This offensive has surely been oriented by the CIA in an attempt to undermine the U.S. Congress efforts, which is doing nothing else but reasserting the U.S. public's opinion.

[Question] Commander, what will you do in the Soviet Union?

[Ortega] Well, this will be a brief but intensive tour throughout all of these countries.

[Question] How long will it last?

[Ortega] Approximately 4 days.

[Question] Is there a possibility of holding another meeting in Manzanillo?

[Ortega] We have not as yet (?established) any type of communications. We have insisted that the Manzanillo talks must be resumed to discuss the normalization of U.S.-Nicaraguan relations. This is a fundamental issue. First of all, the U.S. aggression against Nicaragua must cease, and talks must be resumed for the normalization of relations. Only then will the proper conditions exist for the normalization of relations. Only then will the proper conditions exist for the normalization of life in Nicaragua.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Well, I think that international opinion [words indistinct] events, because apparently President Reagan has not given up the U.S. Government stance [words indistinct] take specific action and (?could) present his proposal for the financing of counterrevolutionary forces again.

[Question] Commander, what can be interpreted from the Reagan administration's assertion that some political and economic measures against Nicaragua are being considered?

[Oretga] Well, that they are entertaining new aggressive actions against Nicaragua, that they are not taking into account the opinion of the U.S. people and the U.S. Congress, and that they are trying to impose their policy.

Proof of this is that not only do they make these statements that they are considering other measures, but the U.S. troops are in Honduran territory and have been conducting maneuvers, exercise in preparation to invade our country. These exercises have already caused the deaths of some Americans in Honduras.

[Question] Commander, will there be another meeting with the Episcopal Conference after you return from the Soviet Union?

[Ortega] The Episcopal Conference members don't want to meet too frequently because the bishops are in various areas. We will, however, meet with the Conference whenever it is necessary and when we have the opportunity.

[Question] About the state of the relations [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] When we met with the bishops on 24 December a commission was formed by the Conference and the government. This commission has met four times and discussed specific subjects brought up by the Conference and the Nicaragua Government. The commission has been trying to find the right approach to solve these problems.

[Question] Commander, what is going on at the war fronts?

[Ortega] As we all know, we have continued striking at defeating the U.S. aggressive policy on the war fronts by hitting the mercenary forces. They continue returning to Honduran territory, and new actions have begun against our country. We can say that the bulk of the armed actions take place in our border territory.

[Question] Commander, what are you seeking from the Soviet Union?

[Ortega] We will propose cooperation plans to the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, and other socialist countries we will visit. We will discuss political aspects and the bilateral relations that we have maintained with these countries since 19 July.

[Question] What do you think of some White House statements today to the effect that the U.S. Government will revise actions to be taken against Nicargua?

[Ortega] Well, surely that they are thinking about new aggressive actions against Nicaragua. Aggression has continued. They are thinking about new aggressive actions such as those mentioned by Mr Shultz. He said that economic and commercial actions might be taken against Nicaragua, including breaking off relations. We do not dismiss military actions of a greater scope.

[Question] What would the U.S. Government's breaking off relations with the Nicaraguan Government mean for Nicaragua?

[Ortega] Well, I think that this stance would be dismissed entirely. I think that the most fitting, proper, and reasonable thing for the U.S. Government to do would be to try to normalize its relations with Nicaragua. This is what the United States should do. [end recording]

COMMENTARY VIEWS HOUSE REJECTION OF REAGAN PLAN

PA261438 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Apr 85

["Beyond the News Reports" feature by Eligio Alvarez Montalvan: "Congress' rejection of Reagan Plan Represents the First Step on the Path of Peace for Nicaragua"]

[Text] Without going to extremes or engaging in a premature celebration, which could later turn out to be disappointing, we could say, as the French newspaper LE MATIN did yesterday, that the House of Representatives rejection of President Reagan's $14-million request for the Somozist counterrevolution is a just, moral defeat for the U.S. President.

It is true, as the French paper stated, that the House of Representatives, according to procedures and regulations, will submit other alternatives to Reagan's original plan. One of the alternatives will be submitted by the Democrats and another by the Republicans. Whichever alternative is approved, the fact is that the U.S. House of Representatives is opposed to the U.S. President's warmongering, interventionist attitude which, by all means, aims to destroy the government that the Nicaraguan people have chosen of their own free will.

It makes no difference whether the Senate, where the Republicans have a majority, approves President Reagan's request for $14 billion; the President's written promise to the members of the Senate no longer has any value. Nothing can be said against the realistic attitude of the U.S. congressmen who voted against Reagan's request despite pressures and cajoling, thus confirming the independence and separation of the state's branches. With their action they also expressed their disapproval of the U.S. President's preposterous conduct in trying to make Congress an accomplice of his interventionist conduct.

In our opinion, this first positive step in search of a peaceful solution to the Central American conflict and, therefore, the Nicaraguan problem, as our Sandinist government expressed in an official communique, should be a logical and sensible warning to those Central American governments that have played Reagan's interventionist game against Nicaragua, and also for those who are doing the same locally. It should be a warning to let them know that they will be wrong if they keep insisting on actions that are detrimental, not only to peace and common coexistence, but also to the norms and principles they claim to defend.

No matter what the U.S. Congress decided, this warning should be the cue to lead us to deal with our problems in the realms of our own Latin American reality, and to try to obtain solutions, like the Contradora Documents, accepting genuine and sincere aid and cooperation that will lead to the full exercise of sovereignty and self-determination.

FDN REACTS TO U.S. HOUSE VOTE ON $14 MILLION

PA251401 Paris AFP in Spanish 0158 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 24 Apr (AFP) -- The Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) believes that it is still possible that the U.S. Congress will approve $14 million in aid to the anti-Sandinist organizations.

FDN adviser Marco Aurelio Soto told AFP in this capital that there is no disappointment "over the rejection of the aid at the House of Representatives, because we are confident of President Reagan and his administration's support, and that is very important."

Soto pointed out that "the aid package has not been definitely rejected, because the Senate approved it and now alternatives are being sought in the House, with four or five debates still pending."

He reported that in Washington, a team made up of leaders Adolfo Calero and Indalecio Rodriguez of the FDN's directorate, are making efforts in favor of "the struggle for freedom." He said that during a telephone conversation with Calero today, Calero told him: "Our prospects are good, through other means," making reference to "sympathies and aid from other European and Latin American organizations, in the event that the U.S. aid is cut off."

He also expressed "his sadness over the poor behavior of the Democratic congressmen, who do not feel compelled to fall into step with their leadership, as representatives of a powerful nation that has the duty to prevent that Marxism-Leninism spread in the continent." He said that if official U.S. aid is suspended, that will only "delay the process of struggle, which will continue so long as Nicaragua is occupied by the USSR, Cuba, and Libya."

He said that the topic of assistance to the anti-Sandinists "does not only involve the FDN, because we are fighting for freedom, peace, and justice throughout the continent," not only in Nicaragua, "even if it is us, indeed, who suffer all the dead."

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MEMBER ON CONGRESSIONAL VOTE

PA261918 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] During a meeting held with Vice President Sergio Ramirez last night, Rudi Arndt, president of the social democrat group of the European Parliament, said: We are proud of the U.S. Congress rejection of the $14 million requested by President Reagan. We are even prouder of the letters we sent to our friends in Congress asking them to vote against this aid.

Arndt, who is also a leader of the FRG Social Democratic Party and a member of a delegation of European parliamentarians visiting our country at the invitation of the National Constituent Assembly, said that they are pleased to be in Nicaragua and described it as a very important visit.

During the meeting, which was also attended by Gianni Cervetti, president of the communist group in that Parliament, and Gerard Laprat, a member of the French Communist Party, Ramirez explained the difficult political battle that Nicaragua had to fight so that the U.S. Congress would reach such a decision.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MEMBER ON PEACE TALKS, AID

PA261520 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 25 Apr 85

[Text] Gianni Cerbetti, a Communist and Italian representative to the European Parliament, said that the Ronald Reagan government's last minute decision to participate in the peace dialogue with Nicaragua at Manzanillo was a sign of weakness. The politician, who this morning visited Bayardo Arce Castano, coordinator of the FSLN political commission, accompanied by other members of a European Parliament delegation, said the legislative organ he represents supports all kinds of peace proposals. He also described Nicaragua's peace proposal as positive.

Cervetti asserted that it is necessary to aid Nicaragua because its revolution is one of peace, democracy, and pluralism. He described the U.S. Congress decision to reject the $14 million for the counterrevolutionaries as a hopeful sign. Finally, he said that Nicaragua's determination to have 100 Cuban military advisers leave the country by 2 May is important and that they will leave on schedule.

CULTURE MINISTER GRANTED VISA TO U.S. AFTER DELAY

PA271501 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Apr 85

[Text] Washington -- The U.S. Government has finally decided to grant Culture Minister Ernesto Cardenal a visa to the United States. The visa was granted 4 days after Minister Cardenal's trip to the United States should have begun. The U.S. State Department announced that the distinguished poet and priest was granted the visa after his request was reviewed and it was determined that his 10-day trip was for the good of the public.

Due to a bureaucratic delay, Minister Cardenal was unable to be the main speaker at the (?Modern Language Association) in Kentucky. His tour of the United States will begin on Saturday in Colorado, from where he will travel to Chicago, New York, and Boston.

COMPARISON OF D'ESCOTO ON U.S. CONGRESS VOTE

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish On 25 April on page 3 carries the interview with Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, which was published from Managua International in the 25 April Latin America DAILY REPORT, pages 5-7, under the headline "Miguel D'Escoto Discusses U.S. Congress Vote." A comparison shows the two versions to be identical except for the following paragraphs, which BARRICADA adds to the end of the interview on page 7:

BARRICADA: Where is the search for peace? Where is the problem of peace? There was some hope about the meaning of what was being discussed by Congress....

D'Escoto: This is not a matter of two peoples or two countries at war. The United States is waging war on Nicaragua. The President asked Congress to authorize funds for this war, and Congress told him NO [previous word capitalized]. However, the President can continue waging war without the Congress. What we want now is to talk directly with the United States so that it will abandon its attitude. However, so far the United States has not wanted to participate in a frank, constructive, and systematic dialogue to normalize relations. Perhaps now, with this clear message from the American people expressed by their representatives, the President will decide to act as a responsible person who respects the law.

BARRICADA: Is there a parallelism between what happened yesterday at the U.S. Congress and another historic situation?

D'Escoto: Unfortunately, the United States has always behaved in a manner that we cannot say is different from that of President Reagan. To a certain extent, Reagan is a victim of a record, of history. Expressions of haughtiness and bullying are more evident in him, but we cannot say he is an exception of the norm.

He is probably just one of those U.S. presidents who shamelessly violates laws, but he is in the framework of the U.S. foreign policy.

CORRECTION TO D'ESCOTO ON U.S. CONGRESS VOTE

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Miguel D'Escoto Discusses U.S. Congress Vote," published in the 25 April Latin America DAILY REPORT, pages 5-7.

Page P 6, paragraph seven, last line reads: and categorically defeated.

[New paragraph] [D'Escoto] We know, of course, that the U.S. Adminsitration has already presented a request for $28 million for the next fiscal year and it is possible that this will also go to a debate, because the request will again be formally presented at Congress. However, there are some who think that, following this defeat, President Reagan will be in no condition to obtain the bipartisan support he has always wanted to carry out this policy of state terrorism. The President will be solely responsible if this policy continues. He will not have the Congress' complicity as he had in the past.

[Noel] Father Miguel d'Escoto, the revolutionary government yesterday [corrects himself] this morning described the House of Representatives decision to reject the first proposal as positive. We would like to hear you tell the Nicaraguan people about the importance of this new attitude to defeat all the possibilities of helping the contras, as proposed by Reagan. Can the Nicaraguan people really believe that the U.S. Congress can truly deliberate about peace in Nicaragua, which is the greatest problem for all of us as well as our main goal?

[D'Escoto] First of all, it is not correct to say that the U.S. Congress has closed all the doors that the president...[rephrases] all the possibilities that President Reagan might use to continue financing his butchers in the counterrevolution, because he can seek other means. He has been told that he will no longer get funding through the U.S. Congress, at least during this fiscal year, and possibly not even in the future. That is what he has been told. Of course, on... (supplying omitted passage)

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE -- Dr Roberto Arguello Hurtado, former chief justice of the Supreme Court of Justice, has been appointed ambassador to France. He will assume office on 15 May. He said that Dr Alejandro Serrano, the new chief justice of the Supreme Court of Justice, will assume office on 2 May. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 25 Apr 85 PA]

NICARAGUA'S DANIEL ORTEGA STOPS OVER IN HAVANA

PA281505 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1420 GMT 28 Apr 85

[Text] Havana, 28 Apr (EFE) -- Cuban President Fidel Castro and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega met during the Sandinist leader's technical stopover on the way to the USSR.

A note released today indicates that in the meeting held on Friday, Castro and Ortega discussed the situation of Central America within the international framework and noted the peacemaking efforts of the Contadora Group, composed of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama.

This is Ortega's second visit to Havana in less than a month and occurs on the heels of the Managua government's announcement of the departure of 100 Cuban military advisers from Nicaragua on 2 May.

The entourage accompanying Ortega on his visit to the USSR is composed of Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto; Joaquin Cuadra Lacayo, Sandinist People's Army chief of staff; Julio Lopez, FSLN party official in charge of the Department of International Relations; Manuel Espinoza, information and press director of the presidency; and Rosario Murillo, wife of the Nicaraguan president.

NICARAGUA ANNOUNCES 100 CUBAN ADVISERS TO LEAVE

FL261213 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] A Nicaraguan Government communique reported that 100 Cuban military advisers will leave that country on 2 May after they attend a farewell ceremony in appreciation for their cooperation. The document indicates that accredited ambassadors of the Contadora Group countries -- Mexico, Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela -- will be invited to attend the ceremony to be held in Managua.

The communique reiterated Nicaragua's wiliingness to withdraw from the country every military adviser, according to the mechanism of the Contadora Document. This will be done when the Central American countries sign the document already accepted by Nicaragua and have executed the part in question.

On another matter, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega submitted to the National Assembly a pardon proposal for over 100 prisoners sentenced for antirevolutionary crimes. The measure carries out the agreements of the political parties summit meeting signed last October in Nicaragua.

NICARAGUAN MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION PAYS VISIT

FL261900 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Guillermo Garcia Frias, minister of transportation, met today in Havana with his Nicaraguan counterpart William Ramirez. During the meeting, which took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and respect, they discussed matters of mutual interest in the field of transportation.

RAUL CASTRO MEETS WITH HUNGARIAN MILITIA CHIEF

FL261135 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1112 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, FAR minister and second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, met last night with Sandor Borbely, national commander of the Hungarian Workers' Militia and member of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party.

PANAMANIAN LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION BEGINS VISIT

FL261746 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] A delegation of Panamanian legislators led by Alfredo Oranges, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Panamanian Legislative Assembly, is visiting Cuba. Upon the delegation's arrival at Havana's Jose Marti International Airport, it was met by Severo Aguirre, vice president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP].

The head of the Panamanian delegation told reporters the objectives of the visit to Cuba are to establish closer ties between the two countries' legislatures and to reach agreement on solving common problems, including the need for peace in Central America.

Meets With Flavio Bravo

PA261951 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Flavio Bravo, president of the Cuban ANPP met here in Havana with a delegation of Panamanian deputies headed by Alfredo Oranges, president of the Panamanian Legislative Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee. At the beginning of the official talks between the Cuban and Panamanian parliamentarians Alfredo Oranges delivered to Flavio Bravo a letter from Panamanian President Nicolas Ardito Barletta, as well as a reproduction in bronze of Panama's national flower.

During the talks, Flavio Bravo explained to the visitors the characteristics of Cuba's political and administrative structures, and gave them detailed information on how the ANPP operates.

ANPP DELEGATION VISITS ITALY 14-21 APRIL

FL242252 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 24 Apr 85

[Text] Aleida March de la Torre, president of the Cuban-Italian Group for Friendship within the Italian Parliament, described the visit by a delegation of ANPP members to Italy as very positive. The Cuban delegation, which also included Pedro Garcia Lupianez, president of the People's Government in Granma, and Fernando Amaya visited Italy from 14 to 21 April.

'OUR AMERICA' ON U.S. SUPPORT FOR GUATEMALA

PA231723 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 22 Apr 85

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] While the U.S. Government tries to make people believe that there is full respect for human rights in Guatemala in order to increase its financial and military support for that Central American nation daily events show just the opposite. The latest episode that shows the repressive actions of the Oscar Mejia Victores regime is the threats against U.S. legislators Bob Edgar and Ted Weiss who had to suspend a planned trip to Guatemala to view first hand the dictatorship's policy on human rights.

The two congressmen wanted to learn about the Guatemalan reality before expressing their support or rejection of President Ronald Reagan's request for direct military aid to Mejia Victores and the oligarchic sectors that support him. Washington wants to strengthen links with the Guatemalan regime in order to further involve that nation in the White House Central American policy. That policy is characterized by interference and by military and economic aggression against the Sandinist revolution and the area's revolutionary movements.

Of course, that military aid has never been absent. The United States has traditionally used the Zionist state for those criminal jobs. In this way, it has supplied successive Guatemalan military dictatorships -- as it did in the past with the Somoza tyranny -- with sufficient military supplies and advisers through Israel. The Israelis have even sponsored the installation of an automatic rifle factory in Guatemala.

Nevertheless, Washington insists on breaking all the formal barriers that could separate it from the genocidal Guatemalan rulers. In order to do this, it is exerting increasing pressure on the U.S. legislative bodies in order to obtain a total opening in the relations with the janissaries who have usurped power in Guatemala.

According to the view recently expressed in Costa Rica by the united representation of the Guatemalan opposition [representacion unitaria de la oposicion Guatemalteca], there is the belief in the U.S. Senate that the Guatemalan authorities are responsible for systematic violations of human rights, despite the elections in the country and the alleged democratic opening. The legislative body bases its view on reports from the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala City which estimate that more than 2,600 people were killed or disappeared in that Central American nation between 1983 and 1984.

To those figures we can add that far from defending the national sovereignty as the country's Constitution establishes, the Guatemalan Armed Forces act like a real occupation army that levels villages, massacres peasants, represses the labor movement with extreme violence, and provides its highest ranking officers easy access to wealth and an opulent lifestyle.

With Zionist advice, the Guatemalan Armed Forces have concentrated the peasant population in strategic villages similar to those that Washington created in Vietnam during the U.S. war of extermination against that Indochinese country.

The following terrible statistics hold true for Guatemala: 100,000 orphans as a result of the official repression; an average of 80 kidnappings a month since Oscar Mejia Victores seized power; and 100 murders of university students last year.

Despite this record, Washington insists that there is peace and order in that Central American nation and that therefore, it is worthy of U.S. consideration and esteem. This is not surprising. One need only recall the Santa Fe document, the guide for Reagan's foreign policy, which states that it is valid and correct to support criminals as long as they are loyal U.S. friends.

MINISTRY SENDS LETTER TO PEREZ DE CUELLAR ON NAMIBIA

PA261640 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Apr 85

[Text] Cuba has rejected the new South African maneuver of installing a so-called interim government in Namibia that harms the sole and legitimate representative of the Namibian people, the South-West African People's Organization. In a letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Cuban Foreign Ministry stated that South Africa wants to close all possibilities of a negotiated solution to the Namibian problem with a unilateral action that constitutes an intolerable violation of international agreements.